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TOPICS OF THE WEEK.

THE week of whose doings we speak, however unimportant they may at any time be, is the most eventful in the year. We write just as the old year is dying out, amid the innocent gaieties of the high festival of Christmas, and our readers will peruse these remarks shortly before they are launched into the cares, the responsibilities, and the stern, inexorable facts of the year that is to come. Such a moment is sadly suggestive, especially while we still rest under the cold shadow of that cloud of national sorrow which gradually will pass away, but will not be easily forgotten. This week, which usually ushers in all the light-hearted and joyous amenities of domestic gatherings round the blazing hearth, and the pleasant interchange of social hospitalities, of kind words and merry greetings, began with a sad day of national mourning—"an empire's lamentation"—taking the form of universal, genuine, and heartfelt sorrow. Scarcely a household in this nation could have been found in which there were not inmates whose joy at the approach of annual festivities fraught with so

many happy associations was not tempered by the reflection that it had pleased Him in whose hands rest the destiny of Kings and Princes to afflict this our fatherland with a great and an irreparable loss. Even to the very young and the unreflecting the scene around them must have suggested some sombre thoughts—by their own dress, and that of others, by the half-closed shutter, the drawn blind, the quiet dulness of our great thoroughfares, usually so gay and crowded and bustling at the approach of Christmas. It is well that they should remember—for the young cannot too soon learn something of the reality and the sadness of life—that there is one English family, and that not only the greatest, but one of the most virtuous, amiable, united, and happy in this land, where the latter days of December will for many years be a sad anniversary. It is to be hoped that many of the young in this country have read the narrative in the daily papers of the solemn ceremony at Windsor on Monday last. The accounts given by the majority of the journals do honour to the English press. They are penned with much thought,

feeling, great descriptive power, without ambitious attempts at fine writing which such an occasion might have called forth. The ceremony was grand, stately, necessarily full of form and circumstance, but sublime from its simplicity, and sacred not merely from its own awe and gloom but from the genuine and earnest sorrow that moved the hearts of all who witnessed it.

While the usual joys of the season have been thus tempered and darkened by the great public loss we have, as a people, suffered, there is nevertheless much cause for rejoicing in the retrospect of the last year. We all remember what sad forebodings arose some months ago about the prospects of the winter, through so much of which we have already passed, almost unscathed. It was gloomily predicted that hundreds of thousands of our countrymen would, in the absence of our regular cotton supply from the Southern States of North America, be thrown out of employment, with no means of subsistence and no prospect but starvation and misery. These prophecies of evil have only been partially—very partially—



CHRISTMAS DAY AT SEA.

fulfilled. Such evils are not usually borne in silence; for, if the poor and the suffering are themselves uncomplaining, there are philanthropic folk who take care that some attempt shall be made to alleviate them; and we scarcely remember a winter in which so few appeals to public generosity have been made. We have been comparatively free from those severe frosts which take away from so many their ordinary avocations and reduce them to temporary want.

In the general aspect of Europe there is better prospect of peace and quiet than there was. "War all over the world" was the cry during a portion of this year. "War with America" seems now to be the only probable contest at hand, and it is to be hoped that its chances daily diminish. With France we, happily, remain on the most satisfactory terms of amity; and France has now done good cause to the future of the world and to the establishment of sound principles of international law by the admirable and well-argued letter of M. Thouvenel to the French Minister at Washington. It is to be hoped that it will have its due effect. It is utterly unintelligible upon what principle the Federal States can desire a conflict with us. Such a conflict might do us some little injury, but our losses would be insignificant compared with the damage we should inflict upon them. They now talk of sending Messrs. Mason and Slidell in exchange to the South for Northern prisoners. These gentlemen may very logically say, "We are not prisoners of war at all, and we decline to be treated as such." In the North they might have enough of the "sinews of war" to prolong successfully for some time their conflict with the South; but a war with so wealthy a nation as ourselves would be a very different matter. According to the last accounts, the Federal finances are in anything but a prosperous condition. The estimates of expenses for the current fiscal year are, according to Mr. Secretary Chase, at the rate of one million and a half dollars per day throughout the year; and of this amount two hundred million dollars must be raised by loan. The Canadians are distinguishing themselves, as we always thought they would by the most enthusiastic loyalty. Vigorous measures are being taken in the way of defence. We understand now how to rule our colonies, and our colonies are consequently loyal. The Canadians are near enough to the Americans of the Northern States to see their worst qualities in their most prominent and repulsive forms, and their anti-American prejudices are so strong that they would readily fight "the Yankee," even without the inspiration of loyalty.

One post of honour left vacant by the death of the late Prince Consort will be the subject of a contest: the chancellorship of the University of Cambridge was offered to Lord Palmerston, and accepted by his Lordship on the condition that there was to be no contest. It being well understood, however, that the Tory party on the banks of Cam would invite the Duke of Buccleuch to allow himself to be put in nomination, the Prime Minister gave way, and his Grace the Duke of Devonshire has consented to contest the chancellorship. A party in the University has also decided on putting forward the Duke of Northumberland, mainly, apparently, on the ground of his devotion to the Church.

CHRISTMAS AT SEA.

To "the gentlemen of England who sit at home at ease" the reality of a Christmas at sea will not often suggest itself during the hearty festivities of a comfortable home, with roaring fires, well-lighted rooms, and abundant fare. Some who have sons on a distant voyage may pause, glass in hand, as they hear the wind groaning in the chimney and rattling the casements—pause to breathe a prayer for the safety of the gallant lads and their speedy return. Mothers who miss the frank laugh and the loud merriment of their bold boys amongst the group of children gathered round the hearth may shed a silent tear or two, and feel that deep maternal yearning to clasp the wanderer in loving arms once more. Wives and children of absent mariners must look upon Christmas as a time when they think long and silently of him who is tossing on the great sea and longing to see them again; but none of these, unless they have been a voyage or two, really understand what it is to be shut within the small limits of even a captain's cabin, and knowing that the same routine of duty, unchanged except by danger or distress, leaves little opportunity for distinguishing Christmas from any other day in the calendar. Happily, it seems a part of the mental and physical constitution of almost every thoroughgoing sailor to look at the bright side of things, and in a serene and philosophical spirit to take matters as they come, enjoying all such circumstances as can be made to minister to his comfort, and bearing with a surprising patience ills which could certainly never be remedied by a peevish regard to his own especial convenience. If the "plum duff," by which Christmas at sea is made as near like living ashore as possible, turns out to be a failure, it is the theme of a little grim jesting, and recourse is had to the ordinary soup and junk, with the addition, perhaps, of an extra allowance of grog, or, in the merchant service, of an allowance of grog in addition to the ration of tea or cocoa. When provisions run short, or beef deserves the name of "old horse," and men begin to cut snuffboxes out of the harder pieces the jest is perhaps somewhat more grim; but it is a jest still; and there is biscuit, with perhaps some fat pork, and the prospect of fresh meat in harbour. In the same way, when the leisure hour which the great anniversary has brought them may be enjoyed, and the ship bows along under easy sail, they sit and smoke, and talk of home and friends, it may be; but the watch must be kept, and the hour soon passes. Christmas Day is like a Sunday to them, perhaps, when they have time to wash themselves and put on a clean rig. It must be remembered that, with merchant seamen especially, frequent washing is impossible, except in salt water, which peels and scarifies the face. Once a week a certain quantity of fresh water may be used, but it is too valuable to throw away, and the quantity which would go for an ordinary footbath on shore must suffice for half-a-dozen men. Fancy a Christmas Eve spent in taking in sail in a squall of wind—Christmas night in lying out upon a frozen yard beating the ice out of a stiffened sheet of canvas! Imagine the short time for sleep curtailed in the interests of good-fellowship and the hilarity which is infectious at such a season, and then after a ten minutes' doze, the call for "All hands on deck!" with a violent and expletive recommendation to "Tumble up!" Think of the man at the wheel on Christmas night. There are two of them in our picture, for there is a rare wind out, and the flying crests of the waves

are cut off in sharp, whistling gusts that drive them, in a blinding shower, upon the deck. There is very little opportunity for talking, except by a gruff, interjectional remark now and then; but of what are those two gallant fellows thinking? Have they ever heard of the loss of the frigate *Ethalion*, of 38 guns, that was wrecked off the coast of France on the night of the 24th of December, 1799, when she was engaged in reconnoitring the enemy's fleet?—how that, in the dark night, the rocks were discovered close ahead, and the ship struck?—how the captain got the pumps to work and the boats out, started the water and threw the guns overboard, but was still unable to save the vessel?—and, finally, when assistance arrived with daylight, got all the people out of her, and then cut away her lower masts and set fire to her remains? Could his companion, if he would, tell him the still more terrible story of the loss of the *Guardian* sloop on the night of Christmas, 1789, with a crew of 123 men, including 25 convicts bound to Botany Bay?—how, twelve days after her leaving the Cape, an island of ice was discovered on the 23rd of December, the weather being very foggy and the island not far distant?—how they stood towards it for the purpose of supplying the ship with water, of which the cattle on board required large quantities?—how the boat went and collected several lumps of the ice, and the ship, attempting to stand away, was influenced by an unfavourable current, and striking the submerged base of the island with her bows, swung round and went stern on to the shoal, where her rudder broke away and all her works abait were shivered as she became submerged beneath a terrific bulk of ice twice as high as the masts?—how she was at length, with tremendous exertion, got off the shoal with six feet of water in the hold, to reduce which the men worked at the pumps the whole of the next day without the least rest, and when they had reduced it to two feet found that she had sprung a fresh leak, and was so strained that the water increased in a moment to ten feet?—how they lightened her by throwing over the live stock intended for the colony, together with their fodder, and, finally, hoisted out the boats to endeavour to escape?—how Lieutenant Rion, the commander, remained with his sinking vessel, in company with about two-thirds of the crew, who determined to share its fate, and (having written a letter to the Secretary of the Admiralty explaining his situation) hourly expected death, commending his men, and asking consideration for his widowed mother and his sister?—how he gave this letter to Mr. Clements, and took leave of the boats as they stood away, one of them, however, being stayed by the swell of the sea?—how the boat in which were the master, purser, chaplain, gunner, master's mate, a midshipman, and nine seamen, was picked up by a French ship on the 23rd of January, and taken to Saint Helena?—how the weary crew of the ship continued to work at the pumps as long as their strength lasted, and kept her afloat until a Dutch packet-boat from the Spice Islands, "provisionally steering a high southerly latitude," fell in with her and rendered such assistance as enabled her to work back to the Cape some 400 leagues, keeping her company during her course?—how, finally, Lieutenant Rion sent another letter to the Admiralty after he and his companions had been given up for lost, which letter, being delivered by a fishing-vessel lying off Dungeness, was forwarded to London and immediately transmitted to the King, who, upon reading it, "expressed uncommon satisfaction," as well he might.

These and other narratives may be known to these same steersmen—nay, they may have stories of their own to tell, strange and terrible ones. They would either of them face peril or death to save the other, and each may know it and feel a glow of Christmas goodwill in his heart of hearts, while he stands growling interjectionally at his mate.

THE NEW GOLDFIELDS.

NOVA SCOTIA.—A letter from the vicinity of the new "diggings" in Nova Scotia says:—"The gold-workings are situated about a mile and a half from the west bank of the St. Mary's River, opposite the village of Sherbrooke. The precious metal was first discovered by a man named Nickerson, and about forty applications for three-quarter acre lots have been made up to this time. From all I can see, this goldfield promises to be equal to any yet discovered. As a general rule, the miners have not yet got fairly to work on the leads, but even the extremely rude means employed have amply remunerated some of them. On the claims laid out eight fine veins of quartz, all more or less gold-bearing, have been discovered. There are two of eight inches in thickness, one of about fifteen inches, and the rest from four to six inches. The northerly lead has been most worked, and seems so far to be the most productive. One man I know has taken out at least 40 dollars worth in an afternoon by breaking it up with a small hammer. I saw him do it. One of the nuggets was worth at least 10 dollars, and one or two worth 5 dollars each. The remaining quartz could, of course, pay well for crushing. On one of the claims the washing will average half a dollar to the pan of raw dirt, which will pay well. The only question to be answered in reference to the diggings is, will they hold out according to promise? If we take the experience of other parts of the province as a guide there is every reason to believe they will. The Wine Harbour diggings are about fifteen miles from here, and the accounts from these continue good, but I have no means of comparing their productiveness with those at Sherbrooke. There have been but few persons here from Halifax, and any who do come must make up their minds to be pretty well shaken up on the journey. You can get here either by the Guysborough coach or by sailing-vessel to the mouth of St. Mary's River, from which you can row up, about eight miles, to this village. I forgot to say that the general direction of the vein is 68 degrees west, corresponding to the strike of the enclosing strata, which is hard, slaty in structure, and considerably shattered, dipping north 22 degrees east, at a very high angle. The quartz is highly impregnated with metallic minerals, consisting of bi-sulphurets of iron and copper, arsenical pyrites, and, I think, some silver. The fire has been through all the region in the neighbourhood of the diggings, and the ground is mostly open, rocky barren, and somewhat swampy."

THE DIGGINGS IN NEW ZEALAND.—The following is an extract from a letter of a Government officer in New Zealand:—"Dunedin, Otago, Sept. 29.—The gold here is a grand success, and will change the aspect of all New Zealand affairs. I have seen, I know, all the Australian diggings from the commencement, and I am sure that the average success of the diggers here is greater and the disappointments fewer than at any of them. The number of persons of all sorts at Tuapika cannot exceed 5000; the actual and competent diggers steadily at work cannot amount to one-half that number. Now the gold brought by escort is about 5000oz. per week for the present month, and at least 2000oz. more must be in private hands, so that the earning for all the population is about 14oz. per week, and certainly over 2oz., probably 3oz. for all actual diggers; in fact, I know many who have made their 3oz. or 4oz. daily for weeks. The country is so well watered and grassed that the opportunities are far greater than in Melbourne. Several other fields have been discovered, and are beginning to be worked with success equal to that of Tuapika; but the weather is still cold, and, after next month, it will be much better for prospecting. Land here worth £2 per foot three months ago is now worth £40. The rise is rapidly extending to the country districts. I start for Inver Cargill to-day. Gold has been discovered there also, and, not improbably, that port may become one of the chief centres of the gold country, as it is the only outlet of a very large country of a character eminently congenial for gold."

M. HAUTEFVILLE ON THE TRENT CASE.—Under the title "Questions of Maritime International Law," one of the first French authorities on that branch of jurisprudence, M. Hauteville, the learned author of "The History of Maritime International Law," and of "The Treatise on the Rights and Duties of Neutral Nations during Naval Warfare," has just given to the world a careful examination of the various questions involved in the Trent and Nashville cases. M. Hauteville divides the subject under three heads. Admitting the right of search, he declares that the Captain of the American frigate "violated all the rules relating to the right of search." He asserts, "The reply to the question put is, therefore—First, that in no case can there exist contraband of war on a neutral vessel sailing between two neutral ports. Second, that even if there were contraband of war the sole right of the cruiser would be to seize the vessel and to carry it into one of the ports of his own country to have it legally sentenced. Third, that persons cannot in any case be considered as contraband of war. Fourth, that Messrs. Slidell and Mason, not being in the military service of the Southern Confederation at the moment of their arrest, could not be carried off from the neutral vessel in which they were sailing. From these answers it evidently results that Captain Wilkes has committed a violation of all the principles regulating international relations." He also decides that President Lincoln has not the right to seize and make prisoners the inhabitants and officials of the Southern Confederation wherever he can find them, although he has the right to regard them as rebels.

Foreign Intelligence.

FRANCE.

The discussion of the financial projects of the Government occupied the French Senate for several days last week, and was marked by one or two slightly-exciting episodes—certain members insisting on introducing elements into the debate which the President, M. Troplong, declared to be out of place, and the conduct of the speakers disorderly. The debate was brought to a close on Saturday by a speech from M. Fould, in which he justified the statements contained in his recent report, the effect of which, he said, had been to re-establish a feeling of security. Since then the indirect revenue had increased, and the public funds had risen, and would probably have continued to rise but for the incident which had caused apprehensions of war between England and America. M. Fould demonstrated the uselessness of extraordinary credits, and called attention to what was at this moment taking place in England, where, without transfers or extraordinary credits large bodies of troops, and a formidable fleet carrying 1800 guns, could be dispatched abroad, and that without convoking Parliament. M. Fould added:—

In future nothing will be added to the deficit, because it is necessary that a real equilibrium should be brought about between the revenue and expenditure, and that the resources should be sufficient, and even more than sufficient. Should unforeseen events come to surprise the country the Government will agree with the Corps Législatif upon the measures to be taken. If the Treasury has nothing to give, the Corps Législatif will engage its responsibility with that of the Government. It will no longer happen that two years pass away before the Corps Législatif is called upon to exercise a control over the credits and expenditure. Every desirable guarantee therefore exists, if we have the strength to respect the laws which we have made.

The *Senatus Consultum* was all but unanimously agreed to, only one Senator out of the 133 present voting against the measure.

The *Journal des Débats* has received a first warning for an article which, as the official notification declares, "is written in a party spirit, and endeavours to shake the faith of the people in their natural institutions. The doctrines which it professes are in flagrant contradiction to the principles on which the French people agreed to found an Imperial throne and the future of a dynasty."

ITALY.

The Court has gone into mourning for his late Royal Highness the Prince Consort.

On the 19th a letter was read to the Italian Chamber of Deputies from Signor Ratazzi, intimating that the state of his health compelled him to resign the presidency of the Chamber. At the request of the Deputies, however, Signor Ratazzi has consented to retain the post at least until the close of the Session.

The Spanish Ambassador at Rome has had an interview with Count Trapani, the object of which, it is asserted, was to urge Francis II. not to yield to the solicitations of France with reference to his departure from Rome.

Mgr. Chigo, the new Papal Nuncio at Paris, has adjourned his departure from Rome until the 12th of January, in order to obviate the necessity of his being present at the reception of the diplomatic corps by the Emperor on New Year's Day, in company with the Italian Ambassador.

PORTUGAL.

The King took the oath to the Constitution in a special Session of the Cortes on the 22nd inst. On this occasion his Majesty spoke feelingly of his brother's death. Lisbon was illuminated, and great enthusiasm prevailed among the inhabitants. Prince Joao continues very ill, and has received the last sacraments.

AUSTRIA.

Advices received from Transylvania state that all Obergespanns who fail to declare themselves loyal to the Government are to be dismissed. Every individual condemned for political offences during the last eleven years is declared disqualified for any judicial or Government office. The Assemblies in the Magyar districts of Transylvania have been dissolved.

PRUSSIA.

The King of Prussia appears to be deeply affected at the result of the late elections. The King and several Princes of his family were present a few days since at the opening of a new church at Letzingen, near Magdeburg, when his Majesty delivered an address to the clergy, in which he is reported to have said:—

I last summer received the most touching proofs of the affection and devotedness of my people when a criminal hand was raised to threaten my life; since that time I have made a triumphal journey from one end of the country to the other, attended with continual ovations. But what were the acts of devotedness which followed the coronation? The people replied to it by elections which could not have been worse, and which have deeply grieved my Royal heart. They sent to the Chamber men who had been condemned for political crimes, and to whom an amnesty alone had restored their country. I will involuntarily maintain my position. I took the crown from the altar of God and from the hand of God; I know that I hold it by the grace of God, and as the inheritance of a long series of glorious predecessors. I shall know how to preserve it.

This Royal manifestation has profoundly moved public opinion, and seems to prove that statements calculated entirely to misrepresent the significance of the late elections are made to the Sovereign; and the question is being discussed of who is responsible for endeavouring to provoke a conflict between the Crown and the people. It is to be hoped that the good sense of the King will induce him to accept the will of the nation, and not the promptings of a Court clique, as the rule of government, and so obviate difficulties which may seriously interrupt the development of Prussian prosperity. Rumours of a Ministerial crisis, consequent upon the dissatisfaction of his Majesty with the result of the elections, have been prevalent, but as yet no official changes have been announced. It is said that the Chambers will be convoked for the 14th of January.

RUSSIA.

The Emperor of Russia has officially announced to the Governor of Finland that he intends shortly to convoke the Diet of that province. The intelligence was received with the highest satisfaction, and the city of Helsingfors was illuminated on the occasion.

St. Petersburg is now united to the network of European railways. The last intersection in the railway from the Russian frontier to the capital of the Russian empire is now filled up, and locomotives can move along the whole line.

Arrests continue to be made on a most extensive scale throughout the kingdom of Poland. Twelve benefited priests have been sent to Siberia. Altogether the state of Poland continues to be very far from satisfactory. The people are sullen and disaffected, the Government harsh and arbitrary, discontent is even said to be manifesting itself among the Russian soldiery, and government is next to impossible. Verily the sins of empires, as well as of individuals, always find them out, sooner or later.

TURKEY.

The monetary panic has subsided. The Government has forcibly suspended all financial operations. The Turkish pound, which at the height of the panic reached 400 piasters, is now quoted at 240. Sir Henry Bulwer has proposed that the Porte should make a material deposit against the caimes which are in circulation. This proposal is likely to be carried out.

THE PRINCIPALITIES.

Prince Couza on the 23rd inst. transmitted to the authorities at Bucharest a proclamation announcing his consent to the union of the Principalities. In consequence of this proclamation the city was illuminated and the Chamber unanimously voted its thanks to the Prince. The United Assembly for Moldavia and Wallachia is convened for the 24th of January, in Bucharest.

INDIA.

The seat of government is to be removed from Calcutta to the hills probably to Simla. The Maharajah of Rewah has abolished the duty on cotton within his territory, and has issued a proclamation for the purpose of promoting the growth of cotton by his subjects. He has thus taken the initiative in giving decided and substantial encouragement to the cultivation of this important staple.

The British Indian Association of Oude, at a general meeting held in Lucknow on the 30th of October, unanimously passed a resolution that "every talookdar shall take a solemn covenant from his tenants binding themselves never to commit or countenance, directly or indirectly, female infanticide in any case whatever; and that, in the event of any one violating the covenant, be his rank or condition in life what it may, he shall forthwith be handed over to the laws and excommunicated for ever from the pale of Hindoo society as a felon and an outlaw."

The exalted Order of the Star of India was bestowed on his Highness the Maharajah of Cashmere in full Durbar at Jummoo on Nov. 1.

The Governor of Madras proposes to allow to a few intelligent natives in different parts of the country, who may be willing to undertake experiments in cotton cultivation, a remission of all assessment upon a certain quantity of land, not exceeding thirty acres in extent, for a period of five years, on condition of the land being devoted to cotton cultivation.

Railway operations are being pushed forward with great energy in different parts of the country.

THE CONFLICT IN AMERICA.

At the date of the last advices from America (Dec. 14) the news of the way in which the Trent outrage had been received in England had reached New York, and was generally interpreted by the newspapers as favourable to the maintenance of peace.

Some further correspondence with foreign Governments had been published, from which we learn that Earl Russell had officially avowed that there was a mutual understanding between England and France on American affairs; and we also learn that Mr. Seward, having ascertained on examining certain despatches that they took cognizance of both parties as belligerents, assuming thereby that the United States were not one Sovereign Power, would not allow the despatches to be communicated to the Federal Government. Mr. Adams, the American Minister in London, in one of his letters says that while in conversation with Lord John Russell in June last he referred to the fact of British troops having been sent to Canada. Lord John Russell replied that, as Canada had been denuded of troops some time since, it was only a proper measure of precaution, and said that he did not know what the United States might do. Lord John Russell also said something about a threat uttered by Mr. Seward to Lord Lyons, that British vessels would be seized on Lake Ontario without ceremony.

The affair of the Nashville is producing some effect in America. The *New York Times* insists that the vessel must be a pirate, because she burnt her prize instead of taking it into some one or other of the ports that were all closed against her. The *Times* says that if Mr. Adams does his duty the ship will be confiscated—or, at least, that the aid and comfort England gave the pirate must be considered as a full set-off for any little overstepping of the strict line of right that may have taken place in the affair of the Trent.

Halleck, the Quaker General, is reported to have issued a proclamation declaring that all persons, without distinction of sex, who are found in disguise as pretended loyal subjects, and give information to or communicate with the enemy, shall be condemned, and shot. We trust the President will disavow this savage edict. If acted upon, this unnatural war will rival, if not exceed, the worst atrocities of Spanish guerrillas or Neapolitan brigands.

The Federal Congress has passed a resolution in favour of the adoption of measures for an exchange of prisoners. Congress has also approved the suppression of the habeas corpus by President Lincoln. Congress was already manifesting a disposition to initiate a radical anti-slavery policy. General Halleck's proclamation refusing permission to fugitive slaves to enter within the lines of the Federal army in Missouri, and also the confinement of fugitives in Washington gaol, had engaged the attention of the House of Representatives. A caucus of Republican members of Congress had been held to consider the whole question of slavery in its relation to the war. Proposals for the confiscation of the slaves of rebels and the arming of slaves met with the utmost favour.

There had been no fighting of importance, though a few skirmishes are reported. Indeed, almost the only military incident worthy of notice is the actual occupation of Beaufort by a garrison. An engagement had taken place in Western Virginia, in which the Federals are reported to have been successful. Federal accounts state that Fort Pickens was unhurt in the late engagement, but that Warrington and part of the Pensacola Navy-yard were burnt.

The steamer Clyde, from Havannah, was reported having passed the Spanish fleet thirty-six hours' sail from Vera Cruz. It was rumoured that two new Confederate Commissioners would sail for Europe in the Clyde.

The Canada journals report considerable activity throughout Canada in organising the militia and volunteers.

FEDERAL FINANCE.

Mr. Chase, Secretary of the Treasury in Mr. Lincoln's Cabinet, in his report presented to Congress, states that the amount derived by the Government from loans since July last is 197,000,000 dols. He is compelled to reduce his estimate of the revenue from the customs during the financial year 1862 from 57,000,000 dols. to 32,000,000 dols. He recommends that the duty on sugar should be increased to 2½c., on clayed sugar to 3c., on green tea to 25c., and on coffee to 5c. Other alterations in the tariff are also recommended. He further recommends that the direct taxes in the loyal states should be increased to 20,000,000 dols., and that duties should be levied on stills, distilled liquors, tobacco, bank notes, legacies, carriages, and paper sufficient to produce another 20,000,000 dols. 10,000,000 dols. are expected to be derived from the income tax.

The estimated expenditure for the fiscal year terminating in July, 1862, is 543,000,000 dols.; 329,000,000 dols. have already been received, leaving a deficit of 214,000,000 dols. to be provided for.

The Secretary proposes to raise 150,000,000 dols. by substituting for the present bank currency of the States a Federal currency to that amount, redeemable in coin on presentation, and secured by United States' stocks; 50,000,000 dols. by loan, and the remaining 14,000,000 dols. to be provided in various ways.

In conclusion, the Secretary states that, should the war be continued beyond Midsummer, the amount required for the fiscal year 1863 will be 379,000,000 dols., and in July, 1863, the public debt will be 900,000,000 dols. The report does not receive much favour in financial circles.

MR. GEORGE THOMPSON ON THE DIFFICULTY WITH AMERICA.—At the Surrey Chapel on Friday week Mr. George Thompson delivered a lecture on the American crisis. He vindicated the conduct of the Northern States in endeavouring to suppress the Southern rebellion, expressing his confidence in the policy of President Lincoln, and strongly deprecated the war spirit which is now being manifested in certain quarters against America. The Rev. Newman Hall presided.

THE PROSECUTION OF DR. WILLIAMS.—The proceedings against Dr. Rowland Williams, one of the writers of the "Essays and Reviews," were commenced last week in the Court of Arches. The articles filed by the Bishop of Salisbury, and which embody the specific charges of heresy preferred against the rev. gentleman, are twenty-two in number. Dr. Phillips more prayed the admission of these articles. Dr. Deane, for the defendant, opposed the application in a speech of great length. He argued that freedom of thought was the basis of Protestantism, and that the articles did not fairly set forth the opinions expressed by Dr. Williams in his review of Baron Bunsen's work. The pleadings in the case are still being continued.

THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT AND THE TRENT OUTRAGE.

THE following highly important diplomatic despatch has been addressed by the French Minister of Foreign Affairs to the representative of France at Washington:—

Monsieur.—The arrest of MM. Mason and Slidell on board the English packet Trent by an American cruiser has produced in France, if not the same emotion as in England, at least great astonishment and an extreme sensation.

Public opinion at once inquired, with anxiety for the consequences, whether such an act could possibly be legitimate? and there cannot be the slightest doubt of the general impression. The act seems to the public so entirely at variance with the ordinary rules of international law that it throws the responsibility exclusively upon the commander of the San Jacinto.

We cannot know yet whether this supposition is well founded; and the Emperor's Government has therefore felt called upon to consider the question raised by the capture of the two passengers on board the Trent. The desire to contribute to prevent a conflict, which is, perhaps, imminent, between two Powers towards whom it is animated by equally friendly sentiments, and the duty of maintaining—with a view to put the rights of its own flag beyond the danger of attack—certain principles essential to the security of neutrals, have, after mature reflection, convinced the French Government that it cannot remain completely silent under existing circumstances.

If, to our great regret, the Washington Cabinet should be disposed to approve the conduct of the Commander of the San Jacinto, they must consider MM. Slidell and Mason either as enemies or as rebels. In either case there would be an extremely regrettable forgetfulness of principle on which we have always found the United States agree with us.

On what ground, in the first supposed case, can the American cruiser have arrested MM. Mason and Slidell? The United States have admitted, with us, in treaties concluded between the two countries, that the freedom of the flag extends to persons found on board, even though they be enemies, except in the case of military men actually in the service of the enemy. MM. Mason and Slidell were, therefore, by virtue of this principle, which we have never found any difficulty in getting inserted in our treaties of friendship and commerce, perfectly free under the neutral flag of England.

It will not, doubtless, be pretended that they could be considered as contraband of war. What constitutes contraband of war is not, it is true, precisely settled; the limits are not absolutely the same for all Powers; but, as far as regards persons, the stipulations found in treaties relative to military persons clearly define the character of the individuals who alone are liable to be captured by belligerents.

Now, it cannot be necessary to demonstrate that MM. Mason and Slidell can in no way be assimilated to persons in this category. There would, therefore, remain no ground to explain their capture but the pretext that they were bearers of official despatches from the enemy. But this is the place to call to mind a circumstance which overrides the whole case, and shows the conduct of the American cruiser to have been unjustifiable.

The Trent was not bound to a point belonging to either of the belligerents. It was carrying its cargo and passengers to a neutral country, and, moreover, it was at a neutral port that it had taken them up. If it were admissible that under such circumstances the neutral flag did not completely cover the persons and goods transported under it, the immunities of that flag would be a vain word; the commerce and navigation of third Powers would be liable to suffer at any moment for their innocent or even indirect relations with either of the belligerents. The latter would not have a right to require from the neutral the most complete impartiality, and to interdict him from being mixed up in any way with acts of hostility, but they would inflict restrictions upon the liberty of commerce and navigation which modern international law refuses to acknowledge as legitimate. There would be a return, in a word, to those vexatious practices against which in former times no Power protested more energetically than the United States.

If the Washington Cabinet should regard the two persons arrested as rebels, whom it has always a right to seize, the question, though shifting its ground, could not be more resolved in a sense favourable to the commander of the San Jacinto. In such a case there would be a contempt of the principle in virtue of which a ship is held to be a portion of the territory whose flag it bears, and there would be a violation of the immunity which forbids a foreign Sovereign to exercise jurisdiction on that territory. It cannot doubtless be necessary to call to mind the energy with which the United States has, on every occasion, defended this immunity, and the right of asylum, which is a consequence of it.

Without wishing to enter upon a more thorough discussion of the questions raised by the capture of MM. Mason and Slidell, I have said enough, I think, to show that the Cabinet of Washington cannot, without infringing those principles which all neutral Powers are alike interested in maintaining, nor without putting itself in contradiction with its own conduct up to the present time, give its approbation to the conduct of the San Jacinto. In this state of things the Cabinet of Washington cannot, in our opinion, accede to the course to be taken.

Lord Lyons is already charged to present the demand for satisfaction which the English Cabinet is under the necessity of making, and which consists in the immediate release of the prisoners taken from the Trent, and explanations which shall relieve the act of the Captain of the San Jacinto of its offensive character to the British flag. The Federal Government would be inspired by a just and elevated sentiment in yielding to these demands. It is impossible to conceive any object or any interest that it could have to run the risk of provoking a rupture with Great Britain by assuming a different attitude.

For ourselves, who would see in such a rupture a complication in every way deplorable of the difficulties with which the Cabinet of Washington has already to struggle, and a proceeding calculated to occasion serious uneasiness to all the Powers not parties to the present conflict, we think we are giving a testimony of loyal friendship to the Cabinet of Washington in not concealing from it our opinion.

I request you, Sir, to take the first opportunity of speaking frankly with Mr. Seward, and, if he desires it, to leave him a copy of this despatch. Receive, &c.,

THOUVENEL.

It is affirmed that Count Rechberg, Austrian Minister for Foreign Affairs, has addressed a letter to the Washington Cabinet, through the Austrian representative in that city, expressing views upon the San Jacinto affair corresponding with those enunciated by M. Thouvenel, and recommending the Federal Government not to embarrass and endanger their position by refusing to accede to the claims of Great Britain.

IRELAND.

THE O'DONOGHUE.—The O'Donoghue, who presided at the recent anti-patriotic meeting at Dublin, has written to the "committee" intimating that he withdrew from that body, as upon reflection he saw that the resolution appointing it was too hastily adopted; and, moreover, that the committee, as at present constituted, in the absence of many well-known names, cannot command the confidence of the country. Several others have also retired from the connection. The O'Donoghue's name has been removed from the commission of the peace by order of the Lord Chancellor.

THE PORT OF DUBLIN.—Attention is being drawn to the great improvement that has taken place in the shipping accommodation of Dublin, and the increase of tonnage that enters it. Thirty years since vessels of 200 or 300 tons burden could hardly cross the bar of the port or come alongside the quays. Now there is 17 feet of water upon the bar when the tide is at its lowest point, and ships of 1000 tons, and steamers ranging from 200 to 270 feet in length, can discharge their cargoes beside the quays. In the course of half a century the increase in the tonnage of the port amounted to 162,310 tons; the tonnage for the three years ending 1799 being 33,485, and that for the three years ending 1854 being 135,795.

THE "CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY."—Sir Robert Peel's projected scholarships in the Queen's Colleges have stimulated the Roman Catholic hierarchy to again attempt the resuscitation of the Stephen's-green Seminary. Bishop Keene, in transmitting the amount lately collected for it in his diocese by command of Dr. Cullen, intimates that the parish priests under his control have undertaken to support by their subscriptions an annual exhibition, or free place, for ten years, and that the Curates will make up a second free place of £40 a year for the same time. The Bishop will also, at his own expense, make an annual provision for a third place of £40 for the same period.

SCOTLAND.

THE TRAQUAIR PEERAGE.—It is rumoured that Sir William Drummond Seward intends to claim the Traquair peerage, although a very distant relative of the late Earl. The estates, worth £7000 or £8000 a year, have been destined to Maxwell, of Terregles, a Catholic gentleman having extensive estates in Dumfriesshire. The nearest male heir of the late Earl resides in America, and though not a distant relative, has been cut off. The marriage of his ancestor with one of the Traquairs seems to have been considered a low match for the lady, and thus led to his exclusion. Lady Louisa Stewart, sister of the late Earl, still lives at a very advanced age.

DONATION TO THE FREE CHURCH COLLEGE.—One of the most intelligent and respected elders of the Free Church in Edinburgh—Mr. William Binny Webster—has handed over to the Senatus of the Free Church College the sum of £5000, for the purpose of endowing fellowships for students who have completed their curriculum at that institution.

SCOTCH LIFE-BOATS.—The Glasgow branch of the National Life-boat Institution has remitted to it an additional contribution of £143. The Life-boat Institution is now engaged in renovating the Dundee life-boat establishment at an expense of upwards of £500. In addition to that, its numerous life-boat establishments on the Scotch coasts involve a large and increasing expense in keeping them in a state of efficiency. Of the 300 persons saved by the life-boats of the institution during the present year, many of the poor fellows belonged to Scotch vessels.

THE PROVINCES.

PARRICIDE IN BIRMINGHAM.—One evening last week a youth, named John Milward, seventeen years of age, on arriving at home placed a loaded pistol on the table. His father, who was somewhat the worse for liquor, on observing the weapon, said several times to his son, "Shoot me! shoot me!" The lad attempted to fire once or twice, but was prevented from doing so by his mother, and soon afterwards she went out of the room. During her absence she heard the report of firearms, and was returning to the room when she met her son, who told her he had shot his father. The shot, which lodged in the man's head, caused his death. An inquest has been held, and a verdict of "Wilful murder" returned against the son.

SIMPLICITY AND SUPERSTITION.—A case of extreme rural simplicity and superstition came before the county magistrates at Macclesfield last week. A farmer's wife accused a gipsy woman, named Priscilla Heaps, of stealing from her the sum of £43 10s. The gipsy woman seems to have discerned at the first view the character of her victim, and she trafficked with her in the usual manner of her tribe. The farmer's wife was sick, and she was told she was "bewitched," and, as "money did it, money would cure it." The silly woman put four £10 notes and three sovereigns and a half in the hands of the gipsy, of course under a promise that it would shortly be returned to her. It need hardly be said that the "wise woman" never came to the rendezvous until she was brought to it by a policeman. She was committed for trial.

LOVE AND BURGULARY.—EXTRAORDINARY CASE.—A contemporary publishes the following:—"Frome has been in commotion for some days owing to an extraordinary charge which has been brought against a gentleman who for some years has occupied a prominent position in this town, and belongs to a profession which is usually supposed to guarantee the respectability of those who are connected with it. The missing individual—for he has been *non est* during the past week—is of middle age, and is father of a family, yet he has of late found attractions other than those of home, and has diligently cultivated the acquaintance of a lady of large property who was on a visit to the house of a clergyman of the town. The friendship, if it ever existed, has, however, lately been nipped in the bud, and the lady determined to turn a deaf ear to the charmer, 'charm he never so wisely.' A rencontre between the two parties, however, accidentally took place in the shop of a bookseller in the town, and an altercation ensued. The conversation became at last 'too animated,' and the lady fell into the arms of the proprietor of the establishment; and he, having a cork leg in the place of one he has had the misfortune to lose, was unable to sustain the shock, and fell with the lady to the floor. The man immediately took flight, proceeded up the town to the paragon-house, and, rushing up stairs, entered the lady's room, seized her box or desk, abstracted therefrom all the letters he had sent to the object of his affection, and made off home. On arrival at his house he was astonished and alarmed to find that, with the letters, he had purloined a cheque for a considerable amount, which he accordingly returned instantly, and then, leaving the town hastily, quitted the scene of his adventures. We have no doubt that he will speedily return, however, for a warrant for his apprehension on the charge of burglary has been issued by the magistrate, and has been confided to the vigilant care of the superintendent of police."

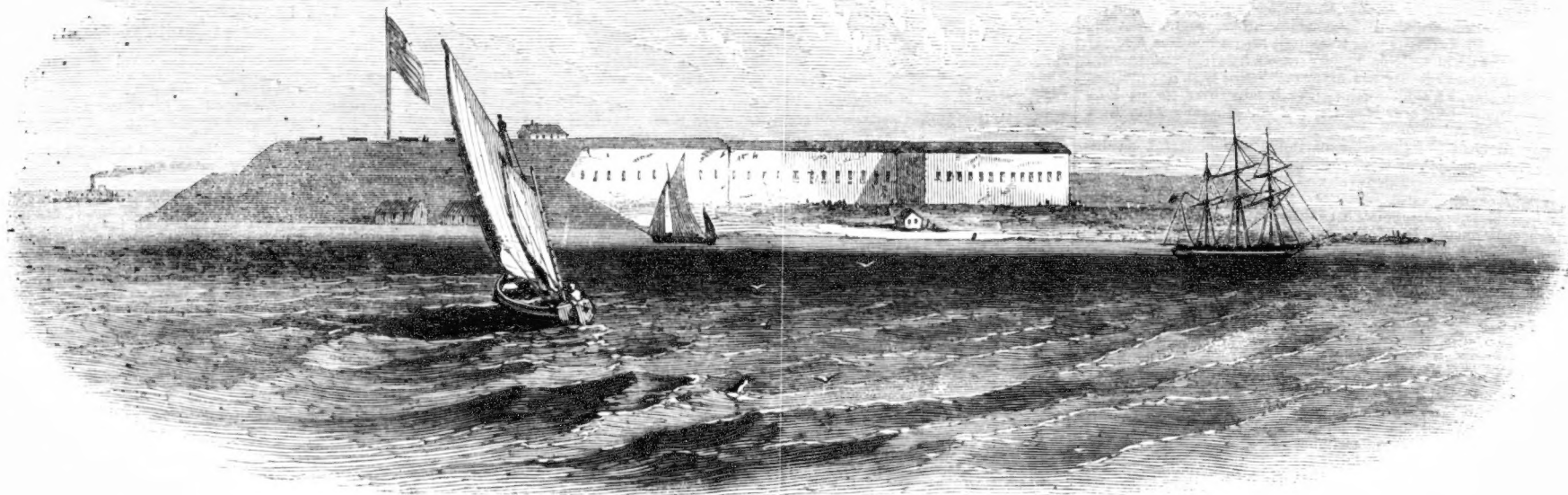
MORE TRADE OUTRAGES NEAR SHEFFIELD.—Two trade outrages were committed on Saturday night at the village of Thorpe Hesley, a few miles from Sheffield. A number of nailmakers, residing and occupying shops in the village, are in the employ of Mr. Favell, of Rotherham. A portion of Mr. Favell's men have been on strike for some weeks on a question of wages, and great efforts have been made to induce the "knobsticks," as they are called, to join in the strike, but without success. Amongst the men who have continued to work are John Hattersley, the foreman, and Charles Butcher, both occupying shops in the village, in one of which a number of men were employed. Butcher occupies a house adjoining his shop, and about eleven o'clock on Saturday night was startled by a loud report. He ran out and found his shop in ruins. The roof was entirely blown off; the gable end was nearly down, and the bellows and other internal fittings were wholly or partially destroyed. The fragments of a can which had been filled with powder were found with a string attached, from which it is inferred that the "infernal machine" had been let down the chimney. While Butcher and his neighbours were examining the ruins a second report was heard, and it was found that a similar explosion had occurred at Hattersley's shop, but attended with somewhat less damage. The nail-makers having left work some hours before, no personal injury was sustained. This, however, has not resulted from any wish on the part of the "rattlers" to limit their vengeance to a destruction of property, for a few days ago a can of powder was found suspended in the chimney of Butcher's workshop, on a workman going to light the fire in the morning, the object evidently being to blow the shop down while the men were at work, by leaving the powder to be exploded by the fire. The criminals have as yet escaped detection.

ITALIAN POLITICAL SOCIETIES.—A committee has recently been organised in Genoa under the name of the Italian Liberal Society. The following is its programme:—1. The subscriptions to be continued, as well as the protests, by meetings and demonstrations against the French occupation of Rome. 2. To advocate the arming of the nation, national rifle matches, and the military organisation of the people. 3. To demand that the law shall recognise all Italians as citizens, because there cannot be Italian emigrants in Italy. 4. To protest against the arbitrary and unconstitutional acts of the Government. 5. To insist upon the reform of the electoral law in order to introduce universal suffrage into political and administrative elections. 6. To appoint a commission to establish a connection between the various patriotic committees and associations. It is stated that a letter lately addressed by Garibaldi to the Committee of Provision in Genoa has been received with much dissatisfaction by some of the more extreme members of that body. The passage of the letter which was thus objected to is that in which Garibaldi called upon all Italians to unite under King Victor Emmanuel. This wise advice is said to have aroused the anger of Bertani, Saffi, Nicotera, and others; and the result, according to some of the Italian journals, is likely to be a schism between the Italian leader, who himself founded and formed the committee, and some of those to whom his name and his friendship mainly lent political importance.

THE ORANGE TRADE OF MARSEILLES.

THROUGHOUT the whole year the wharves of Marseilles afford to travellers visiting that city a curious and interesting spectacle, such as attends an enormous commercial intercourse with all the ports of the world. Amongst the miscellaneous commodities crowding the Quay des Augustins, at the extremity of the Cannebière, we would now particularly speak of the oranges furnished by the productive gardens of Monaco and Menton, and by the lovely fields of Valentia.

The traffic in oranges attains an immense height at Marseilles, and is, out of proportion, its greatest object of commerce at a certain time of the year. If this brief account had been a statistical chapter, we might have astonished our readers with rows of figures demonstrating the extraordinary quantities of the delicious fruit in question which are consumed in France, England, Germany, and Russia, and which find their way to those countries by that well-known route indicated in the travelling and postal phrase "via Marseilles." However, all the oranges which Marseilles receives from the sources we have named, and others besides, are not re-exported. This great town itself consumes a large portion, and the people, one may say, take a considerable part in the Hesperian banquet. It is this popular feast which has inspired the French artist Crapetlet with the remarkable design we here present to our readers. It is full of truthful animation, which we may assist by supposing the scene to take place on a Sunday. The general business of the quay is, of course, suspended; the Custom House is closed, and the ships are resting idly in the dock; their many-coloured flags, fluttering on high, are not more listless and inactive than the hulls themselves. It is only the brigantines of Balceors, the felucas of Valentia, and the *tarantines* of Menton and Monaco that abstain, not from the toil and bustle of the week, but that, on the contrary, double their busy occupations on this universal holiday. The explanation of this is very simple. The golden fruit may be eaten at this time duty-free; and lovers of oranges can indulge their tastes to the utmost limit of their stomachs without much fear of exhausting their purses in the inverse process. And thus the Quay des Augustins becomes on Sunday the scene of a veritable orgie of oranges, such as our artist has depicted.



FORT WARREN, BOSTON HARBOUR, WHERE MESSRS. MASON AND SLIDELL, THE CAPTURED CONFEDERATE COMMISSIONERS, ARE CONFINED.

FORT WARREN.

FORT WARREN, in Boston harbour, having become a place of interest from being the scene of the captivity of Messrs. Mason, Slidell, and other Confederate prisoners captured from time to time by the Federals, we present our readers with an Engraving of the Fort, and a few descriptive particulars regarding it.

George's Island, upon which Fort Warren is located, is situated about two miles west of Boston Light, fronting the main entrance to the harbour. It contains about forty-five acres, and is protected by a seawall extending halfway round the island on the most exposed part. The construction of the fort was commenced in 1833, under the direction of Colonel Sylvanus Thayer, of the United States' Corps of Engineers. The work was continued until 1858, when operations were suspended by the failure of Congress to make the necessary appropriations. The sum of 1,050,000 dollars has been expended by the Government upon the work, and it is regarded as the best-built and cheapest work of its size in the United States. The sum of 75,000 dollars is required to complete the fort, and about 300,000 dollars to properly arm it. It is rated the most formidable work of defence in the United States, the intended armament being 320 guns, while Forts Monroe and Adams mount respectively about 290 guns. When fully garrisoned, the fort will require a force of between 5000 and 7000 men.

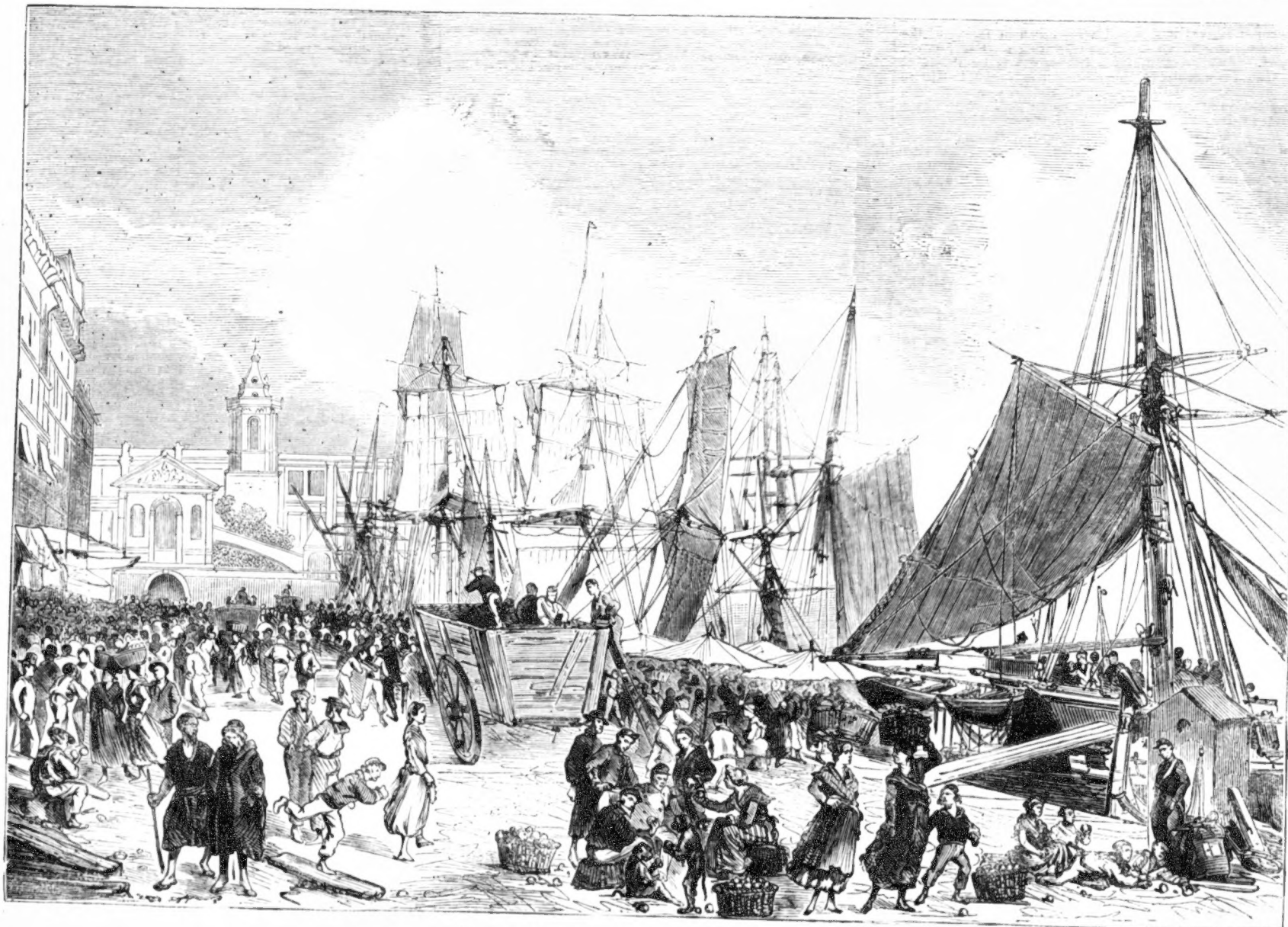
The general plan of the fortification is a figure of five sides or fronts, with bastions, curtains, flanks, and faces. The top of the parapet is 70ft. above low-water mark, while the height of the parade wall is 25ft., and that of the scarp, or exterior wall, 30ft. The main fort is entirely surrounded by a ditch 30ft. wide. The average length of each front is about 620ft., making the entire circuit of the fortification 3136ft. The area of the parade-ground is nearly ten acres. The space between the inner and outer walls is about 50ft., and, with the exception of the southerly front, the fort is truncated and divided into casemates or quarters. The terre-plein, upon which is to be planted the barbette guns, is 27ft. wide, and extends entirely around the top of the fort. The pintles and traverse-stones, or circles upon which the guns are to be worked, have been set on the most commanding fronts; but at the present time only one gun, and that a columbiad, in the casemates, is mounted. Measures have, however, been taken to supply the fort with a battery of rifled cannon.

The easterly front, commanding the main channel, mounts thirty-five barbette guns, and beneath them, in the casemates, provision is made for mounting thirty columbiads, and five flank guns, the latter designed to throw grapeshot for the defence only of the ditches. In the event of attempts being made to scale the ramparts, the ladders of the assailants could be shot away as fast as raised. All vessels entering the harbour are obliged to pass between "Bug Light" and

the fort, and within half a mile of this formidable battery, in addition to which there is an outwork against the southerly front, commanding not only the south channel, but ranging in the main entrance, upon which can be mounted two batteries of seventeen and thirty-one guns.

The north-easterly front, commanding the Narrows, mounts thirty-two barbette guns on the terre-plein, and forty-seven on a cover-face, which extends the entire length of the front. The battery on the north-westerly front, also commanding the Narrows, will consist of thirty-five barbette guns, and several flank guns for defending the ditches and main entrance to the port. In advance of this front is an outwork in front of the main entrance, called a demi-lune, or lunette, from its shape. This is pierced with loopholes and provided with fireplaces, and is intended to be used either as a prison or for the defence of the field or plain outside. The main guardhouse is at the entrance of the ditch, on the left flank of this front. It consists of two square rooms, built of solid masonry, under the embankment, and well warmed and lighted. The westerly front, facing Nantasket Roads, has no provision for a battery, it being a solid embankment, with ramps for drawing ordnance from the parade to the terre-plein.

The quarters of the officers of the garrison are located in the casemates of the north-westerly front, which is pierced by the main



ORANGE BOATS LANDING CARGOES AT MARSEILLES.



A WINTER SCENE IN PARIS—DISTRIBUTION OF BREAD AND SOUP TO THE POOR.

entrance. The casemate in the north-easterly front is divided into ten spacious apartments for barracks for troops, each 60 by 17 ft., and provided with two fireplaces, well lighted and ventilated. In the centre of this face is a postern which, in time of assault, is designed to be connected with the cover-face by a drawbridge, over which the troops, if repulsed, may retreat within the fort and close the heavy postern-gates. There are apartments in the rear of each casemate in the sea-front which, if necessary, may be used for barracks. There are three circular staircases and four straight flights of stone stairs leading from the parade-ground to the terre-plein. Magazines are located in the extreme end of each face and curtain, in the rear of the guns. The landing on the west side of the fort has a granite front of 300ft. Some attempt has been made to ornament the grounds surrounding the fort by planting from 800 to 1000 shade-trees. They are, however, quite young, and as yet do not afford much shade.

GIVING AWAY SOUP AT THE INVALIDES.

OUR Engraving is taken from a picture, painted by M. J. Pils, which has become deservedly popular at the galleries of the Boulevards des Italiens, where, notwithstanding that their time for closing for the season has arrived and many changes will be necessary before the next exhibition, the directors have determined to retain several pictures of more than usual interest in order to form a nucleus for future operation. Amongst the best of these is "The Distribution of Soup." This picture, which has met with so much success, is the property of the Minister of the Interior, and the subject is certain to excite general sympathy among Parisian spectators.

There, on the esplanade of the Invalides, where the frost lying on the branches of the trees and the hard, icebound earth show that the rigours of a severe winter have begun, the brave soldiers of that army which still believes itself to be France share with the famished mendicants of the gay capital the remains of their daily rations. The

scene is a striking one, and affords a remarkable opportunity for introducing that variety of expression for which M. Pils is so celebrated.

DISTRIBUTION OF THE ROYAL AND OTHER CHRISTMAS GIFTS.—On Tuesday evening (Christmas Eve) the following seasonable gifts to the poor were distributed, viz.—By her Majesty's command, the gifts of her late Royal Highness the Duchess of Kent to the poor inhabitants of St. Mary Abbot's, Kensington, were continued. They consisted of bread, meat, coals, and blankets. A good Christmas dinner was provided by their Royal Highnesses the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge for each poor family in Kew and its vicinity. In most of the metropolitan parishes the respective clergymen, assisted by the churchwardens, distributed tickets for coals, bread, and meat to the deserving poor.

FUNERAL OF THE LATE PRINCE CONSORT.

The remains of the late Prince Consort were deposited in the Royal vault in St. George's Chapel, Windsor, on Monday.

The grief which during the last week has been diffused throughout the country from the moment it heard of the death of the Prince Consort, seems to have concentrated itself at Windsor. The late Prince was too well known, his presence was too familiar, and his character too near the people of the Royal town of Windsor, not to impart to them a deeper, though not a sincerer, sorrow than has pervaded the whole nation at the loss it has sustained. On the arrival of the special train which conveyed those who had the sad privilege of attending the funeral mourning-carriages were ready at the Windsor terminus and conveyed them to St. George's Chapel, where the funeral ceremony was performed, the Dean of Windsor officiating. The Chapel Royal, from floor to ceiling, was a mass of black, which, combined with the deep silence of the mourners and the solemn sadness of the occasion, filled the mind of the beholder with a feeling more of awe than of gloom.

Meanwhile the Royal family, and the other Royal personages, assembled at twelve o'clock in the Chapter-room of St. George's Chapel, and were conducted to their places by the Vice-Chamberlain, Lord Castlerosse, while those who were to form part of the procession within the chapel were assembled in Wolsey's Hall. As the procession formed and moved along from the quadrangle of the castle under the Norman gateway, escorted by a detachment of the 2nd Life Guards, the aspect was one of grand and imposing solemnity. The rank and still more than the rank—the lofty character of the illustrious deceased; the Royal position of the chief mourners, overborne by grief; the presence of the chiefs of the State, of the dignitaries of the Church, of the personal friends of the late Prince, of the Foreign Ministers, evinced but too plainly that, though technically the funeral of the Prince Consort may be "private," a nation—and more than a nation—was rendering the last sad homage of respect. The slow tolling of the church bells, the distant booming of the minute guns, added to the impressiveness and solemnity of the scene. The chief mourner, the Prince of Wales, and Prince Arthur, the sons, the Duke of Saxe-Coburg and Gotha, the brother, and the Prince of Prussia, the son-in-law of the deceased Prince, were the objects of sympathy to all. They went through the trying scene with as much composure and resolution as was possible under the circumstances; but neither rank nor pomp gives any exemption from the sorrows that attend upon the bursting asunder of the sweetest and tenderest of human ties, and this feeling was quite manifest as the remains of the late Prince were lowered into the Royal vault.

THE PROCESSION TO THE CHAPEL.

The following is the order of the procession observed in removing the remains from the castle to St. George's Chapel:—

A guard of honour of the Grenadier Guards, of which regiment his late Royal Highness was Colonel, mounted at the entrance to the State apartments of Windsor Castle.

A mourning-coach, drawn by four horses, conveying two valets and two officers of his late Royal Highness—viz., Mr. Lohlein, Mr. Mayet, Mr. C. Robertson, Mr. E. S. Cowley.

A mourning-coach, drawn by four horses, conveying Mr. Roland, Librarian; Mr. Meyer, gentleman rider; Mr. White, solicitor to his late Royal Highness; and Dr. Robertson, commissioner at Balmoral.

A mourning-coach, drawn by four horses, conveying the four physicians who were in attendance upon his late Royal Highness—Sir James Clark, M.D., Sir Henry Holland, M.D., Dr. Watson, and Dr. Jenner.

A mourning-coach, drawn by four horses, conveying an Equerry to his late Royal Highness, Colonel the Hon. Alexander Gordon, C.B.; an Equerry to his late Royal Highness the Duke of Cambridge, Colonel the Hon. James McDonald, C.B.; and the Comptroller and Equerry to her late Royal Highness the Duchess of Cambridge, Colonel Home Purves.

A mourning-coach, drawn by four horses, conveying Colonel the Hon. A. Hardinge, C.B., and Colonel H. F. Ponsonby, Equerries to his late Royal Highness, and Rear-Admiral Blake and Major General Charles W. Ridley, C.B., Gentlemen Ushers to his late Royal Highness.

A mourning-coach, drawn by four horses, conveying Lord Camoys, the Lord in Waiting to the Queen; and Lieutenant-General Sir Henry Bentinck, K.C.B., Groom in Waiting; Lord Alfred Paget, Clerk Marshal; and Colonel Biddulph, the Master of the Household.

A mourning-coach, drawn by four horses, conveying four of the supporters of the pall of his late Royal Highness—viz., Major-General Wyld, C.B., and Colonel Francis Seymour, C.B., Grooms of the Bedchamber to his late Royal Highness; and Lieut.-Colonel the Hon. Dudley De Ros and Major C. T. Du Plat, Equerries to his late Royal Highness.

A mourning-coach, drawn by four horses, conveying four of the supporters of the pall of his late Royal Highness—viz., Lord Waterpark, Lord of the Bedchamber to his late Royal Highness; Colonel the Hon. Alexander Nelson Hood, Clerk Marshal to his late Royal Highness; Colonel the Hon. Charles B. Phipps, K.C.B., Treasurer to his late Royal Highness; and Lieut.-General the Hon. Charles Grey, Private Secretary to his late Royal Highness.

A mourning-coach, drawn by four horses, conveying the three great officers of her Majesty's household—the Lord Steward, the Lord Chamberlain, and the Master of the Horse.

A carriage of the Queen's Most Excellent Majesty, drawn by six horses, the servants in State liveries, conveying the crown of his late Royal Highness, borne by Earl Spencer, Groom of the Stole to his late Royal Highness; and the bâton, sword, and hat of his late Royal Highness, borne by Lieut.-Colonel Lord George Lennox, Lord of the Bedchamber to his late Royal Highness.

THE HEARSE,

drawn by six horses, attended by an escort of the Life Guards. A carriage of the Queen's Most Excellent Majesty, drawn by six horses, the servants in State liveries.

A carriage of his late Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, drawn by six horses, the servants in State liveries.

A carriage of his late Royal Highness the Duke of Cambridge, drawn by six horses, the servants in State liveries.

A carriage of her late Royal Highness the Duchess of Cambridge, drawn by six horses, the servants in State liveries.

The line of procession was kept by the 2nd Regiment of Life Guards, dismounted, and by the Scots Fusilier Guards. At half past eleven o'clock those who had the honour to receive the Queen's commands to attend the ceremony, but who did not take part in the procession, were admitted to St. George's Chapel by Wolsey's Chapel, and at once conducted to seats in the choir.

At twelve o'clock the Royal family and other Royal personages assembled in the Chapter-room of St. George's Chapel, from which they were conducted to their places in the procession by the Lord Chamberlain, assisted by the Vice-Chamberlain.

THE PROCESSION UP THE CHOIR OF ST. GEORGE'S CHAPEL.

The remainder of those appointed to form part of the procession within the chapel, having previously assembled in Wolsey's Chapel, took their places, and upon the arrival of the body at the south porch the procession was formed in the nave and moved up the choir in the following order:—

Valets of his late Royal Highness—Mr. Lohlein and Mr. Mayet. Valets of his late Royal Highness—Mr. Charles Robertson and Mr. E. S. Cowley.

Bailiffs of his late Royal Highness—Mr. Brebner, Mr. Tait, Mr. Graham, and Mr. Toward.

Mr. Roland, Librarian; Mr. Meyer, Gentleman Rider. Mr. White, Solicitor to his late Royal Highness; and Dr. Robertson, Commissioner at Balmoral.

Apothecary to his late Royal Highness—M. C. Dupasquier. Apothecary to the Household at Windsor who was in attendance on his late Royal Highness—Mr. Henry Brown.

Surgeons to his late Royal Highness, Surgeon-Major W. H. Judd. Sir Benjamin Brodie. Surgeon-Major W. H. Judd.

Physicians who were in attendance on his late Royal Highness, Sir James Clark, M.D., Physicians to his late Royal Highness, and Physicians in Ordinary to the Queen.

Sir Henry Holland, M.D., Physicians Extraordinary to the Queen. Dr. Watson, Dr. Jenner.

Chaplains to his late Royal Highness, The Rev. Lord Wriothesley Russell. The Rev. Professor A. P. Stanley, D.D. The Rev. the Dean of the Rev. Professor Lightfoot, M.A. Christchurch, D. Liddell. The Representatives of absent Foreign Royal Personages:—General Baron von Hammerstein, attended by his Aide-de-Camp, Captain Tübing, Representative of his Majesty the King of Hanover. Lieutenant-General the Hon. Sir Edward Cust, K.C.H., Representative of his Majesty the King of the Belgians. Don Manoel da Camara, Chamberlain to the King, and Lieutenant A. de Sampaio e Pina, Officier d'Ordonnances to the King, Representatives of his Majesty the King of Portugal. M. de Seebach, Representative of his Majesty the King of Saxony. Colonel Boddein, Representative of his late Royal Highness the Grand Duke of Mecklenburg-Strelitz.

The Comptroller and Equerry to her late Royal Highness the Duchess of Cambridge—Lieutenant-Colonel Home Purves. An Equerry to his late Royal Highness the Duke of Cambridge—Colonel the Hon. James McDonald, C.B.

An Equerry to his late Royal Highness the Prince of Wales—Major Teesdale, C.B., V.C.

Equerries to his late Royal Highness—Colonel H. F. Ponsonby, Colonel Hon. A. Hardinge, C.B., and Colonel Hon. A. Gordon, C.B.

The Master of the Household to the Queen—Colonel Biddulph. The Equerry in Waiting to the Queen—Lord Alfred Paget, Clerk Marshal. The Groom in Waiting to the Queen—Lieut.-Gen. Sir Henry Bentinck, K.C.B.

The Lord in Waiting to the Queen—Lord Camoys. The Lord Steward—The Master of the Horse—The Earl of St. Germans, G.C.B. The Marquis of Ailesbury.

The Choir of Windsor. The Canons of Windsor. The Dean of Windsor—The Hon. and Very Rev. Gerald Wellesley, D.D. THE BATON, SWORD, AND HAT

of his late Royal Highness, borne upon a black velvet cushion by Lieutenant-Colonel Lord George Lennox, Lord of the Bedchamber to his late Royal Highness.

THE CROWN

of his late Royal Highness, borne upon a black velvet cushion by Earl Spencer, Groom of the Stole to his late Royal Highness.

The Comptroller in the Lord The Vice-Chamberlain of her Majesty's Household, Hon. Spencer Ponsonby, Viscount Castlerosse.

The Lord Chamberlain of her Majesty's Household, Viscount Sydney.

SUPPORTERS OF THE PALL. Colonel the Hon. Sir Charles Phipps, K.C.B., Treasurer to his late Royal Highness. Lieut.-General the Hon. C. Grey, Private Secretary to his late Royal Highness.

Major-General Wyld, C.B., Groom of the Bedchamber to his late Royal Highness. Col. Francis Seymour, C.B., Groom of the Bedchamber to his late Royal Highness.

THE BODY.

Garter King of Arms—Sir Charles Young. The Chief Mourner, His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, supported by His Royal Highness Prince Arthur, and by

His Royal Highness the Duke of Saxe-Coburg and Gotha, and attended by Major-General the Hon. R. Bruce.

His Royal Highness the Crown Prince of Prussia. His Royal Highness the Duke of Brabant. His Royal Highness the Count de Flandres.

His Royal Highness the Duke de Nemours. His Grand Ducal Highness Prince Louis of Hesse. His Serene Highness Prince Edward of Saxe-Weimar.

Count Gleichen. His Highness the Maharajah Dhuleep Singh. Equerries to his late Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, Captain George Henry Grey; Lieut.-Col. Frederick Charles Keppel.

Equerry to his late Royal Highness the Duke of Cambridge, Colonel Fyfe-Ridd. Gentlemen in Waiting on his late Royal Highness the Crown Prince of Prussia—Lieutenant-General Baron Moltke, Chamberlain Count Furstenstein, Lieutenant-Colonel von Obernitz, and Captain De Lucadou.

Gentlemen in Waiting on his late Royal Highness the Duke of Saxe-Coburg and Gotha—Major General Reuten and M. Samwer. Gentleman in Waiting on his late Royal Highness the Duke of Brabant—Count de Lannoy.

Gentleman in Waiting on his late Royal Highness the Count of Flanders—Major Burnell. Gentleman in Waiting on his late Royal Highness the Duke de Nemours—General Count de Chabannes.

Gentleman in Waiting on his Grand Ducal Highness the Prince Louis of Hesse—Baron Westeweller. Gentleman in Waiting on his Highness the Maharajah Dhuleep Singh—Colonel Oliphant.

THE INTERMENT.

Upon arrival within the choir, the crown and the bâton, sword, and hat of his late Royal Highness were placed upon the coffin. His Royal Highness the Chief Mourner stood at the head of the corpse, with his late Royal Highness Prince Arthur and his late Royal Highness the Duke of Saxe-Coburg and Gotha on each side. The other royal personages stood behind his late Royal Highness the Chief Mourner, and their attendants near them.

The supporters of the pall were on each side of the coffin. The Lord Chamberlain stood at the foot of the coffin. The rest of the procession, having previously advanced towards the centre of the choir, stood on each side of the chapel.

The opening sentences of the Burial Service were sung by the choir while the procession moved up the nave. The first part of the service and the anthem (Martin Luther's Hymn) having been performed, the corpse was lowered into the Royal vault, and the Dean concluded the Burial Service; upon which Garter King of Arms proclaimed the style of his late Royal Highness.

After which the Royal family and other Royal personages were conducted out of the chapel, and the others composing the procession retired, while the "Dead March in Saul" was played.

A guard of honour of the Grenadier Guards (of which regiment his late Royal Highness was Colonel) was mounted during the ceremony at the entrance of St. George's Chapel.

A troop of the Royal Horse Artillery was stationed in Windsor Park, and fired minute guns during the progress of the procession and the ceremony.

The mourners entered by the upper door, whilst the hearse, emblazoned with the Prince's arms, was drawn up at the lower gate, and the coffin conveyed into the chapel which was crowded with the persons invited, who were dressed in deep mourning, with the exception of one or two who were in uniform.

The service was very grand and impressive. Lord Palmerston and the Duke of Cambridge were not present. The Prince of Wales bore the ceremony with great fortitude, whilst Prince Arthur cried and sobbed bitterly. The Prince of Prussia was also much moved. At five minutes to one the coffin was lowered into the vault amidst the deep and silent emotion of all present.

The following, who had the honour to receive the Queen's commands to attend the funeral of his late Royal Highness, were conducted to seats in the choir of St. George's Chapel:—M. van de Weyer, the Belgian Minister; Count Kielmausegge, the Hanoverian Minister; Count de Lavradio, the Portuguese Minister; Count Virzthum, the Saxon Minister; and Count Brandenburg, the Prussian Chargé d'Affaires.

OFFICERS OF STATE PRESENT.

Lord Westbury, Earl Granville, the Duke of Argyll, Sir George Grey, Earl Russell, the Duke of Newcastle, Sir G. C. Lewis, Sir Charles Wood, Mr. Gladstone, the Duke of Somerset, Lord Stanley of Alderley, Mr. Edward Cardwell, M.P., Mr. Thomas Milner Gibson, M.P., Hon. C. P. Villiers, M.P., the Earl of Carlisle, Right Hon. William Cowper, and the Hon. Charles A. Gore.

OFFICERS OF THE QUEEN'S HOUSEHOLD.

Viscount Bury, Lord Proby, the Earl of Cambridge, Viscount Torrington, Lord Rivers, Lord De Tabley, Lord Cremorne, K.P., Lord Harris, K.S.I., Lord Melbourn, and Lord Byron; Hon. Morrice Sackville West, Colonel the Hon. George Augustus Liddell, Captain Sir Wm. Howe, Bart., K.N., Lieut.-Colonel R. N. Kingscote, C.B., and Lieut.-Colonel W. H. F. Cavendish; Colonel Lord Jas. Murray and General Sir Frederick Stovin, G.C.B.; Hon. Charles A. Murray, C.B.; Lieut.-Colonel Lord Augustus Charles L. Fitzroy and Major-General Seymour; Lieut.-Colonel G. A. Maude, C.B.; Captain the Hon. Joseph Denman, R.N.; and Mr. Woodward.

MOURNING IN THE METROPOLIS.

Monday was observed throughout London as a day of mourning. At the West-end, the Strand, the City, and in most of the suburbs, the shops were closed and all business suspended, so far as it was possible. There was no town delivery of letters during the day; in the City all business was suspended, although the bankers, the Custom House, and many commercial firms connected with the shipping interest, were compelled to remain open; the Law Courts and offices were also closed during the entire day. Flags floated half mast high over all the public buildings and offices, and the ships in the river showed their colours at half-mast also. The omnibus conductors and drivers, in accordance with the orders of the company, were provided with a symbol of mourning.

At twelve o'clock, the time at which the procession was to leave Windsor Castle, minute guns were fired from the artillery in the Park and the Tower; similar demonstrations being observed at Woolwich, Tilbury Fort, and the principal garrisons.

On no previous occasion of public mourning has it been so marked and general.

On Sunday the death of the lamented Prince Consort was made the subject of funeral discourses in all the churches and chapels of the metropolis; and there is no doubt that similar services were held throughout the country generally. Eloquent tributes were paid to the character and services of the illustrious deceased; and both the religious edifices and the congregations assembled therein were covered with the symbols of mourning to an extent which has never been exceeded, and which showed how universal was the feeling of sorrow that prevailed. In many instances the buildings were so crowded that the doors or gates had to be closed soon after the services began. We publish sketches of some of the more important of these sermons.

THE PROVINCES.

Intelligence has been received from all the principal towns in England that the funeral of the late Prince Consort has been observed with every mark of respectful sorrow. There have been special services in all the churches and in most of the chapels; the bells having been tolled and muffled peals rung in the early part of the day. The Mayors and Corporations have in several places attended service in church, accompanied by the volunteers and yeomanry. In the cathedral towns there have been services rendered specially effective by the performance of "The Dead March in Saul." The factories in several large towns in the manufacturing districts have been shut for the day. In the seaports the vessels have hoisted their flags half-mast high; and the volunteer artillery have added, by the discharge of minute guns, to the gloomy feelings awakened by the muffled peals from the church steeples.

THE LAST HOURS OF THE PRINCE CONSORT.

THERE were fluctuations from time to time, and even within an hour of his death the Prince expressed himself as strong enough to get out of bed; nevertheless, a terrible fit of congestion of the lungs ensued, in which he expired, shortly before eleven at night. The Prince's constitution was one of those which was not calculated to bear the brunt of any enfeebling zymotic disease. Spite of an active athletic life and of careful diet, he displayed an early tendency to increase of bulk which is rarely compatible with a healthy rigidity of fibre. He was easily depressed by a common cold or any other slight accidental illness, had a feeble circulation, and firmly believed that any severe illness would at any time be fatal to him. So soon as unfavourable symptoms manifested themselves Sir James Clark and Dr. Jenner requested that the patient should have the benefit of additional advice, and that their own responsibility should be divided. This proposition was very unwillingly entertained at first by the personage most nearly interested, partly from her unbounded confidence in her advisers, and partly from the fear of still further depressing the vital powers of the Prince, and increasing his dependency by alarm at indications of increased danger. The repeated request of the physicians, however, was at length complied with; and two physicians were specially selected by the Royal family—Sir Henry Holland and Dr. Watson. After the fatal event, the Queen, with a calmness and dignity which never deserts her, expressed her warmest thanks to Sir James Clark, as one of her oldest and best friends; and more than one member of the Royal family testified to Dr. Jenner their gratitude for the attention which he had lavished—unusually, alas!—on their departed relative. We have these details from a patient, high in office, who received them from a member of the Royal family.—*Medical Times*, Dec. 21. The Prince Consort had been attacked at least a fortnight before the fatal termination. On Sunday week he was unable to attend Divine service, a duty he ever held as of paramount importance in his well-balanced mind. On the Monday following Dr. Jenner was summoned, and from that time the Prince was under continuous medical advice. It is, perhaps, commonly thought that, as a man of middle age, well nourished, and, of course, highly cared for in all material wants, the Prince might have been less than usually liable to fall a victim to low fever of this kind. But the opposite series of relations may always be predicted in typhoid fever. This is a disease which has invariably proved far more fatal to sufferers of the upper class and of middle period of life than to patients of the poorer kind. The immediate cause of death is believed to have been congestion of the lungs. On the other hand, there was enough of suddenness in the immediate termination of the disease to raise the question whether it might not have been due to ulcerative perforation of the bowel, a well-known complication of typhoid fever.—*Lancet*, Dec. 21.

Unhappily, his Royal Highness was averse to medicine, and, even after the character of the fever had declared itself, he objected to all active remedies, and especially to his being confined to a recumbent posture. He was each day occasionally wheeled about the apartments which he occupied. His Royal Highness was conscious almost to the last, but occasionally delirious, and in his delirium his thoughts seemed to be occupied about the Prince of Wales.

THE QUEEN.

Her Majesty the Queen, then Royal Highnesses Princess Alice, Princess Helena, and Princess Louise, and his Grand Ducal Highness Prince Louis of Hesse, left Windsor Castle on Thursday afternoon week for Osborne, where they still remain. Her Majesty travelled in the greatest privacy. His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales accompanied her Majesty to Gosport, and returned immediately to Windsor Castle. The younger members of the Royal family departed for Osborne at an earlier hour of the day.

Her Majesty continues to enjoy as good health and to bear her irreparable loss with as much calmness as could be expected. She has been visited by the Crown Prince of Prussia, the Princesses Hohenlohe, the Duke of Saxe-Coburg (brother of the Prince Consort), the Belgian Princess, and other relatives of her Majesty and the late Prince, all of whom have striven to do all they could to alleviate her Majesty's grief and to sympathise with her in her sad bereavement.

The Prince of Wales has joined his august mother at Osborne, and her Majesty has around her all her family except the Crown Princess of Prussia, Prince Alfred, and Prince Leopold.

At a meeting of the English residents at Cannes, held under the presidency of Lord Brougham, an address of condolence with her Majesty was adopted. The Queen continues to receive from all quarters, home and foreign, the warmest expressions of sympathy in her sad bereavement.

THE WHITWORTH ORDINANCE.—Lord Palmerston made a promise to the House of Commons, in the debate on Mr. Vivian's motion for a committee of inquiry into the merits of the Whitworth and Enfield rifles, that the subject should be properly investigated during the recess. This duty the noble Lord would seem to have undertaken, in some measure, himself, if we may judge from his recent visits to Hythe and Shoeburyness to see the practice with the Whitworth rifled guns. The result of the investigation is an order that the manufacture of some Whitworth rifles is to be commenced forthwith at Enfield, according to Mr. Whitworth's pattern. The rifles, when finished, are to be distributed among various regiments of infantry. With regard to Mr. Whitworth's ordinance, a number of his rifled guns are forthwith to be tried in the ordinary use of the service.

THE LOUNGER AT THE CLUBS.

MR. GEORGE HARCOURT VERNON, who died last week, was not the Father of the House, as was stated by the *Times*. The honours of paternity belong to Sir Charles Merrik Burrell, who entered the House as member for Shoreham in 1806, and has sat for that borough ever since. Mr. Harcourt was elected in the same year; but there was, in years 1830-1, a break in the chain of his membership. He left, or was rejected by, Lichfield in 1830, and did not get into the House again until 1831, when he was returned for Oxfordshire. He has, however, been in Parliament over fifty-four years altogether. Mr. Harcourt was the son of Archbishop Harcourt of York. His first wife was a daughter of the second Earl of Lucan; his second, the Dowager Countess Waldegrave, formerly Miss Braham, the daughter of John Braham, the great tenor singer. This lady married, first, John James Henry Waldegrave, Esq., the reputed son of the sixth Earl afterwards the seventh Earl, the reputed half-brother of her former husband, and afterwards Mr. Harcourt. It is said, and I believe truly, that the sixth Earl left the bulk of his property to his reputed son; that he, dying without issue, left it to his wife, who, of course, when she married the seventh Earl, took it back to the peerage; but he also died without issue, and the lady therefore still retained it, and possesses it now, and also, of course, the title of Dowager Countess Waldegrave.

And, now that I am writing about titled people, I may mention the accident which happened in Rome to Lady William Russell. Her Ladyship was walking in the Piazza di Spagna with her son, Mr. Arthur Russell, the member for Tavistock, when, her son having left her for a minute to go into Mondalini's library, Lady William was knocked down by the pole of a carriage. A French soldier picked her up and carried her to Piali's library, whence she was conveyed to her hotel and was promptly attended there by Dr. Meyer. The reports from Rome tell us that, fortunately, no bones are fractured, but that the hurt is serious and will confine her Ladyship to her room for some time. Lady William Russell is the relict of Lord George William Russell, who, I think, was once our Ambassador at Lisbon. He was the son of John, Duke of Bedford, and brother to the late Duke and Earl Russell. Lady William is reputed to be one of the most accomplished ladies of England. Her eldest son is Hastings Russell, the member for Bedfordshire, and presumptive heir to the dukedom of Bedford. A large circle of friends, including many eminent men in the world of letters, the philosopher of Cheyne-row, for example, will be anxious for tidings of this noble and accomplished lady's recovery.

I notice in the Lords' corridor in Westminster Palace another new fresco by Cope—subject: "Charles I. Raising his Standard at Nottingham;" and another in the Commons' corridor—subject: "The Escape of Charles II., Disguised as a Servant." But I can offer no opinion upon their merits, for, in truth, it is very difficult to see them, so little light do those stained-glass windows let through, and so coloured—or I may say discoloured—are the rays which fall upon the frescoes. These windows should really be cleared of the painted glass, if not for the sake of the public in mercy to the artist. What would Turner have said if he had been compelled to exhibit one of his paintings opposite a coloured window? But I need not ask this question for no power on earth would have induced the irascible little painter to submit to such a condition. We have now in these corridors four pictures illustrative of the reigns of the Charleses; and, with all due deference to the illustrious Fine Arts Commission, I venture to think that these are more than enough, especially as these pictures are all on one side—all intended as incense to the "Royal martyr" and his questionable son; for, if we think of it, the page of history which these frescoes illustrate is not one which we can be very proud of, especially that which relates to Charles II. At all events, four—costing, I suppose, between two and three thousand pounds—are quite enough. I have remarked that these pictures are all on one side. But let it not be supposed that I wish to see the other side illustrated. May the fates forbid! I should be sorry, indeed, if any attempt should be made in that way. The pictures that have been set up are pretty enough, and do very well for the country tourists who flock down on Saturdays to stare at them, though I notice that they are most of them sadly puzzled to understand the subjects. But I see no signs of that inspiration which would be required to represent the really grand transactions of that memorable century. Indeed, I do not believe in the system of having paintings done to the order of a dilettante committee. If a painter is not inspired to undertake a work it will never be worth much. But, at all events, let us have no more one-sided pictures illustrative of the lives and reigns of these questionable Kings. It was suggested years ago that the Commission ought to have stopped at Elizabeth, and there was wisdom in the suggestion; for, saving William III., what Monarch has reigned since Queen Bess that one cares a rush for, excepting always our present beloved Sovereign, more beloved now than ever? What can our Fine Arts Commission find in the career of King Jamie? Will they have him depicted penning the "Counterblast against Tobacco," or slobering on the shoulders of Steenie? And what of his namesake—or of Queen Anne? A quarrel between her and the irascible Sarah might, perhaps, do. Or of George I., who didn't like either "boots or bainters"?—or of George II., George III. might be drawn intriguing against his Ministers, or a pretty picture might be made of Lord Bute crawling up the back stairs, or of the King threatening to go off to Hanover. George IV.'s reign, I imagine, they will not attempt, as that is too near. On the whole, it surely was a wise suggestion to stop at Elizabeth.

On Monday, from twelve to one, the big bell in the clock-tower at Westminster again spoke in sonorous tones. It was difficult to detect in these tones any signs of fracture in the monster; but it is hopelessly cracked in two places. The rents are in the lower rim of the bell, and about seven or eight inches in extent; they are perpendicular, and are near together. The bell was tolled in this way:—A strong cable was tied to the clapper; four men, holding the rope, kept the clapper on the swing, and, every time the guns in the park announced the expiration of a minute, gave the rope an extra jerk, and brought the clapper in contact with the side of the bell. It is probable that the bell, though cracked, will not be removed, but stay up there to do duty on such mournful occasions as that of Monday; and all that one can hope is, that opportunities for it to show its powers may be few and far between.

The "Essays and Reviews" are now fairly in court, and the war has begun. When or how it will end no human prescience can foretell. The great question at issue is apparently a simple one. "Is the Bible infallible or not?" This is the main question. The prosecutors in this suit assert that it is—that this is the doctrine of the Church—that the essayists have openly impugned this doctrine, and pray for judgment. The defendant bravely denies that this is the doctrine of the Church. This question looks simple enough, but is, in fact, a very difficult and very complicated one. For example, what is meant by infallibility? A considerable number of divines maintain that every word was inspired, and that the writers were mere speaking-trumpets. This is the doctrine of "verbal inspiration;" but it is confessed that this is not the doctrine of the Church. The inspiration held to, it is said, by the Church was a superintending inspiration, which did not guide the writers in the use of words, but only prevented them from error in doctrine, narrative, &c. But words are the symbols of things, and it has been asked, with great plausibility, how could a writer be inspired so as to keep him from error in statement if he were not prevented also from using erroneous words? Again, the essayist may say and do say, if the words were not inspired, or if they were it is not notorious that words change their meaning in time and come at last to mean something entirely different from what they originally conveyed? And have we not a right to explain such words, and attempt to bring them back to their original signification. For example, "dunce" once meant only a

follower of Duns Scotus, now it means an ignoramus; pert meant merely lively, as in Shakespeare—

Awake the pert and nimble youth;

"neologist" only meant the introducer of a new word; now it means the advocate of a new doctrine, &c. In short, the questions which will arise out of this discussion are endless. On the matter in dispute no opinion is offered here; all I have attempted to do is to give a peep into the jungle into which the disputants have entered.

It may be remembered that some time ago the projectors of a new daily paper predicted wonderful achievements for their intended journal. It was to be called the *Dial*, to eclipse the *Times* by the simple process of getting cleverer writers upon its own staff, to be conducted by clerical parties, and to convert the world of newspaper-readers generally to a degree of piety hitherto unattainable. All these flourishes terminated in a dull, weekly paper, in squabbles among the clerical parties, and the absorption of the paper bodily into the *Morning Star*. However, passing along the Strand the other day, I observed an announcement on a shutter that the *Dial* was to appear on the 1st of January next, under the proprietorship of Messrs. Bayne and—Pickles! Why did not the last-named gentleman attach his signature to the original prospectus of the paper?

MR. COBDEN ON ARBITRATION IN THE TRENT AFFAIR.

MR. COBDEN, in reply to a letter from a Brighton gentleman inviting him to a meeting in that town for the purpose of advocating arbitration in the existing dispute with America, has forwarded the following communication:—

Midhurst, Dec. 16, 1861.

My dear Sir,—I regret that I cannot accept your invitation to be present at the meeting to be held next Monday condemnatory of a war with America. When asked to address public meetings, my plight just now is that of a man who, having sprained his ankle, is invited to enter the lists for a foot-race. Though the state of my health in other respects is good enough, I am prevented by a local affection, for the present, from public speaking. But I am glad to hear that the working men of Brighton are promoting a meeting on the American question. The object of all rational men and true patriots at this moment should be to enforce upon the Government that principle of mediation or arbitration which was proposed by the British Plenipotentiary and sanctioned by the Congress of the Great Powers at Paris in 1856. The protocols of the conferences then held, which were laid before Parliament at the time, but to which few persons have now access, disclose to us the excellent motives alleged by Lord Clarendon for proposing this "happy innovation," which he designed as "a barrier against conflicts which frequently only break forth because it is not always possible to enter into explanation and to come to an understanding." The question thus enforced in the name of the British Government was solemnly debated, every Plenipotentiary taking a part, and was adjudged for two days to enable Count Orloff to obtain the "definitive adherence" of the Russian Government, when the following declaration was unanimously agreed to:—"The Plenipotentiaries do not hesitate to express, in the name of their Governments, the wish that States between which any serious misunderstanding may arise should, before appealing to arms, have recourse, as far as circumstances might allow, to the good offices of a friendly Power."

Now, is it possible that any case will ever arise to which this principle of mediation can be more applicable than the present? In perfect ignorance of what the answer of the American Government may be, I will assume the worst—that they refused to surrender the captured Envoys, and offer to justify their course by appeals to international law. What can be more within the scope of the Paris resolution than that where two interested parties differ on a subtle point of international law, it should be referred to the decision of a disinterested third Power? Looking at it even with a view to a practical redress of our present grievance, what other course offers so good a hope of success? The object desired is to place at liberty the gentlemen who were taken from a British vessel. I happen to know Messrs. Sidel and Mayon personally, and to the latter I am indebted for many courtesies at Washington; and although, as they must know, I can have no sympathy for their cause, few persons would rejoice more than myself to see them released from an irksome confinement. But, assuming that, to effect this object, we declare war against the Federal States, and that these gentlemen are, in consequence, transferred from Boston harbour to the interior, does any one acquainted with America believe that it would be possible for England to release them? We could destroy each other's commerce and spend countless treasures—we might pour out blood like water, and ruin for a generation two great civilisations; but the object aimed at would not be accomplished. On the contrary, if we submit the question to the adjudication of a third Power, the first step will be to place the two Envoys at the disposal of the recognised tribunal. Should it be decided that they were illegally captured, they will be released; if their seizure be pronounced justifiable by international law, they will be liable to detention as prisoners of war only, and not as rebels; for the Government of Washington can have no right of appeal to the law of nations in justification of their act, except by acknowledging the belligerent rights of the South.

But it has been said that the Washington Government wish to insult us, with a view to provoke a war. There may be traitors or madmen in the North who would like to see their Government involved in the embarrassment of a war with England; but that a Government and people who require at this moment half a million of men in arms to meet a civil war and guard their capital should look with anything but dismay at the prospect of a war with the most powerful maritime State in the world is too monstrous a supposition to be seriously believed by those who pretend to entertain it. At all events, the true test of the disposition of the American people will be the expressed willingness on our part to resort, if necessary, to the mediation of a third party. Should such a conciliatory step meet with no better response than a desire to insult and wrong us, we should be united as one man to repel the outrage; and, unless the solemn declaration of Paris is to be impotent for all practical good and a mere dead letter, all the Powers of Europe would, in such a case, be ranged on our side and ready to brand with outlawry a nation guilty of so barbarous and wanton an aggression.

Entertaining these views, I recommend the working men of Brighton, and all who take part in similar demonstrations, to raise their voices in favour of arbitration. The cry for peace alone is hardly enough at the present moment. What we require is peace on the principles of impartial justice; and the true way of ensuring this in case of dispute, whether in the affairs of nations or of individuals, is by calling in the services of a disinterested arbitrator.

Lord Ebury and Sir Culling Eardley have also addressed the public in favour of referring the dispute to arbitration.

ENGLAND AND AMERICA.—Considerable interest was excited in Paris and London on Saturday by the announcement that a despatch from Mr. Seward had arrived in the latter city, in which the affair of the Trent was treated of in a very amicable tone. This, however, was a mistake, as the despatch in question—which is in reply to one from Earl Russell in reference to neutral rights generally—bore date prior to the delivery of the British remonstrances on the subject of the stoppage of the Trent, and could not, therefore, be a reply to them. It is said that in this communication, which, of course, has not been made public, Mr. Seward assures Earl Russell that the Cabinet of Washington, faithful to its past policy, is ready to guarantee to neutrals every facility compatible with the rights of belligerents, and that satisfaction will loyally be given by the Federal Government in case an infraction of the rule adopted in common should take place. This despatch, although bearing a date anterior to that of the English ultimatum, was written after the arrest of the Confederate Commissioners became known in America.

FRANCE AND AMERICA.—The Federal Government have been within an ace of war with France. The Southern privateer Sumter anchored about the 20th of November in the roads of St. Pierre, Martinique, and was there blockaded by the Iroquois, a North American frigate. Martinique is unarmed, and from the movements of the Iroquois the local authorities expected every hour to see her seize the Sumter within the roads. The captain of the Sumter, however, was not disposed to become a martyr to his country's cause, and on the night of the 25th of November slipped out of the roads, closely pursued by the Iroquois. Had the Sumter been seized in the roads, even Louis Napoleon could not have averted war.

MAZZINI.—A Milan paper states that some friends of Mazzini in Genoa are endeavouring to induce him to return to Italy and surrender to take his trial, at the same time arranging that a deputation shall wait upon the King to solicit an unconditional pardon for the distinguished exile. The journal in question believes, however, that Mazzini will not, under the circumstances, accept the invitation, although there can scarcely be the slightest doubt that he would receive from the King unconditional liberty in his native country.

THE BARON DE VIDIL.—Amongst the names of those persons gazetted in the forfeit list for arrears of stakes, periodically exhibited at "Tattersall's," appears that of the Baron de Vidil, who is represented therein as a defaulter to Mr. Ten Broeke for the Goodwood Stakes of 1859, won by that gentleman's horse Stroke.

DEPARTURE OF THE GUARDS FOR CANADA.

On Tuesday week the Duke of Cambridge inspected the first battalion of the Grenadier Guards and the second battalion of the Scots Fusilier Guards at the Wellington Barracks, previously to their departure for Canada. They were in undress marching order. After undergoing a minute inspection of companies they marched past in quick time and in quarter-distance column. At the conclusion of the proceedings the officers were called forward and addressed by the Duke. He said that, although overwhelmed by the irreparable loss sustained by her Majesty and the nation, he could not allow the Guards to leave the country without inspecting them. When it became necessary to send troops to Canada he was desirous of showing that the brigade was ready for service at the shortest notice. It was gratifying to behold two such splendid battalions equipped for embarkation in so short a time. Everything that foresight could point out had been executed to secure their health and comfort. It was impossible to foretell what might happen, but, if peace should be maintained, he hoped to see them all return as they went. If war should break out, he knew that they would do their duty. They would have to encounter great extremes of cold and heat in the climate to which they were proceeding; but he knew they would set that example of disregard for privations which had distinguished them in the Crimea, and that they would sustain, in other respects, the high reputation their regiments had already won. Owing to the death of the Prince Consort the band did not attend, and the inspection was of a very private character, about fifty spectators only being present, mostly relatives of the officers.

One gallant Captain had been but three days on his wedding tour when he was telegraphed to return to duty; and, curiously enough, there is a larger proportion of married men in the two battalions ordered out than in any others of the brigade. One General was at the Princess Theatre, and had just seen the French Othello ordered off on urgent foreign service to Cyprus, when an orderly delivered to him an order from the Horse Guards to be in readiness to go to Canada to command a brigade. Unlike the Shakspearean hero, however, the officers going to Canada are not allowed to take their wives with them, and Desdemona must remain at home at least until the spring. Another indication of the serious character of the work expected is an order from the Horse Guards that no servants other than soldier-servants shall go out with the officers.

On Thursday morning week a great number of persons, at an early hour, assembled in the Wellington Barracks, St. James's Park, on the occasion of the departure of the 1st battalion of the Grenadier Guards (under the command of Colonel the Hon. Hugh Manvers Percy, C.B., Victoria Cross), and of the second battalion of the Fusilier Guards (commanded by Colonel William John Ridley), for Canada. The officers and privates paraded about seven o'clock in front of the barracks, in heavy marching order, and there was not a man absent. The bands of each battalion were not present, in consequence of the melancholy death of the Prince Consort. The whole body started about eight o'clock for the Waterloo station of the South-Western Railway, Waterloo-road, where trains were in waiting for their conveyance to Southampton, at which port the Adriatic and Parana merchant-ships were in waiting to convey them to Canada. There was much enthusiasm displayed by the battalion of each regiment, who were loudly cheered all the way to the railway station. The wives, children, and relatives of the men accompanied them to the station.

The Adriatic and Parana left Southampton Docks on Thursday afternoon week, with the Guards on board. The total number of troops who go out in the Adriatic and Parana is 94 officers and 2261 rank and file, viz.:—Adriatic—Staff, 3 officers; Grenadier Guards, 33 officers, 841 men; Military Train, 15 officers, 300 men; Artillery, 6 officers, 113 men; total, 57 officers, 1254 men. Parana—Scots Fusiliers, 32 officers, 887 men; Royal Engineers, 5 officers, 120 men; total, 37 officers, 1007 men.

Our illustrations portray the arrival of the Guards at the Waterloo station, and the scene which the station presented on the departure of the train for Southampton.

THE DISPATCH OF TROOPS TO CANADA.—The dispatch of troops and munitions of war to Canada continues with unabated activity. Besides the Guards, whose departure is noticed elsewhere, large numbers of men and large quantities of warlike materials are every day forwarded for embarkation. On Saturday the Asia sailed from Liverpool with the staff of the army on board, as well as detachments of men; and on the same day the Magdalena left Southampton for Halifax, U.S., with the 16th Regiment of Foot, 1000 strong. Other ships are being taken up by Government besides those already chartered, and a continuous flow of troops to our North American possessions will be kept up till the necessary force for their defence is provided, or till it shall appear that the danger of a collision with the Federal States is over. The Military Store Department at Pimlico is actively employed in the preparation of winter clothing for 20,000 men, who are about to be stationed in Canada. The troops are to be supplied with sheepskin coats, fur caps, and gloves, and warm stockings. The whole of the ships of the first division of steam reserve are told off for immediate commission in the event of hostilities being declared. Lists of every officer and man necessary to join each ship are now prepared at the Admiralty, and a large force will spring into sudden existence the moment the proclamation of war is signed.

THE NAVAL RESERVE.—A meeting of officers of the merchant service was held at the London Tavern on Friday week, to consider the recently-published Admiralty regulations with reference to the Royal Naval Reserve. Mr. R. Green, who occupied the chair, explained the nature of these regulations, and resolutions approving of them, and thanking the Lords of the Admiralty, but more especially Lord Clarence Paget, for the opportunity now afforded to the merchant service of co-operating with the Navy, were adopted. A resolution of condolence with her Majesty was also passed. Mr. Lindsay and one or two other members of Parliament took part in the proceedings.

THE DEATH OF LADY CANNING.—Advises from India unhappily confirm the report of the death of Lady Canning, which melancholy event had thrown a gloom over all classes of society in Calcutta. Lady Canning returned from a visit to the Darjeeling Hills on the 9th of November. The country between Darjeeling and the plains is ordinarily considered unhealthy for travellers for a month or so after the conclusion of the rainy season. This year it has been more particularly so, because the rains have been not only excessive, but they have continued up to a date six weeks later than usual. It is supposed that in traversing this jungly country at night, before the rains had ceased, she contracted jungle fever. On her return it was known that Lady Canning was not well; still, no apprehensions were entertained. On the 12th, however, it transpired that the symptoms had not yielded to treatment, and on the 14th people heard that she was worse. On the evening of the 15th it was known that she had rallied, and it was thought that the danger had passed away. This, unhappily, was not the case, for on the 17th she had a relapse, and sank so rapidly that she did not survive the night. Her Ladyship's funeral took place at Barrackpore on the 19th of November; it was, according to the expressed wishes of the late Countess, strictly private. Barrackpore was always a favourite residence with her, and no brighter spot could be chosen in that part of India to receive her last remains than that green plat on the banks of the Hooghly, which she so much favoured in her lifetime. It was, doubtless, a consolation to her that she had lived long enough to see her husband's policy not only triumphant, but already beginning to bear fruit in the spectacle everywhere of a united and contented people.

THERE are now five vacancies in the Order of the Garter, and there seems at present no chance of their being filled until the year 1862 is advanced. It is understood that the following noblemen are likely to form the addition to the illustrious brotherhood—viz., Earl Canning, the Duke of Somerset, Earl Russell, the Earl of St. Germans, and Earl Cowley.

LIEUT. STEWARD, 25th Regiment, in quarters at Nusseerabad, was shot on the 19th ult., whilst asleep, by his native servant. The only cause that can be assigned for this act is that Steward, while at Ajmere, accused the servant of having stolen fifteen rupees, and mentioned the circumstance to the bazaar-master at the former place, and threatened to prosecute him.



OFF TO CANADA—ARRIVAL OF GRENADIER AND FUSILIER GUARDS AT THE WATERLOO STATION.



STARTING OF THE TRAIN.—THE LAST FAREWELL.



OUR NAVAL VOLUNTEERS.

OUR NAVAL VOLUNTEERS.

On the preceding page we give an Engraving showing a group of the gallant tars who, as members of the Naval Reserve, have offered their services to the Government whenever or wherever they may be required. The conduct of those composing this valuable force on the present emergency has been such as to reflect upon them the highest credit, and to show that the old spirit of patriotism is as vigorous as ever in the breasts of the class who have so often and so well sustained their country's glory and maintained her rights. Apropos of this subject, we copy the following "Boat Song for the Naval Reserve," by Thomas Hood the younger, which appears in the *St. James's Magazine* for this month:—

BOAT SONG FOR THE NAVAL RESERVE.

Lift her along—
Stout hearts and strong!
Let our oars fall in time
To the rhyme
Of our song!

Old England's mighty seamen,
The masters of the deep,
Have left to us—their sons, my lads—
Their ancient sway to keep;
To make our bright flag honoured
Alike by friend and foe
As far as Ocean's waters roll,
As far as breezes blow!

Then three cheers for our Queen:
And three cheers for our Land:
And three cheers for the hearts that love us
And three times three
For the British Flag,
That floats on the breeze above us!
Give her good way—
Light hearts and gay!
And our oars in their beat
Shall repeat
The old lay

Old England's mighty vessels
But wait the voice of war
To spread their grand wings on the gale,
And wake their thunders roar;
And England's foes again should find,
Amid the battle's smoke,
The same staunch English wooden walls—
The same stout hearts of oak.

Then three cheers for our Queen:
And three cheers for our Land:
And three cheers for the hearts that love us!
And three times three
For the British Flag,
That floats on the breeze above us!
Steadily swing—
Hearts for a King!
And our oars in their chime
Shall keep time
As we sing!

Old England's mighty Charter,
It still remains the same:
Oppression still her standard hates—
Still Freedom loves her name!
And calmly still her people
In God repose their trust,
Nor change the Peace they love for War—
Save when that War is just.

Then three cheers for our Queen!
And three cheers for our Land:
And three cheers for the hearts that love us!
And three times three
For the British Flag,
That floats on the breeze above us!
Lift her along,
Stout hearts and strong;
While our oars in their beat
Still repeat
The old song.

Three cheers for our Queen!
Three cheers for our Land!
Three cheers for the hearts that love us!
And three times three
For the dear old Flag,
That floats on the breeze above us!

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ILLUSTRATED TIMES.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 28, 1861.

CHRISTMAS, PAST AND PRESENT.

AN English Christmas is traditionally the season of joyousness, festivity, and charity. There is no anniversary so scrupulously maintained by all classes as this, which embodies the domestic element so peculiar to the English character. The only complaint which seems to asperse the usual geniality of the time is one that is heard as regularly as Christmas comes round, and has been annually so heard within the memory of the oldest—that Christmas is not what it used to be, and that its merriment decreases year by year.

We grant that there occur occasionally exceptional instances, such as the present, in which the sad remembrance of a calamity throws a softening shadow over the customary hilarity of the annual festival; but, at the same time, after some examination into this matter, as one of social interest and even of no trifling importance (for a nation's diversions are to the philosopher as well worthy of attention as its other developments), we are far from disposed to start from the same basis with those who arrive at lamentation by assuming the decadence of Old Christmas.

The cry is not a new one. It has not been raised for the first time during the lives of the present generation, of their fathers, or of their grandsires. The natural tendency of maturer age to cast a longing, backward gaze upon the enjoyments of earlier years suggests itself too obviously to form here the subject of comment. Two hundred years ago the English grieved for the old Christmas, supposed to have been ruined by the Puritans, whose joy was to

quarrel with mincepies and disparage
Their best and dearest friend, plum-porridge;
Fat pig and goose itself oppose,
And blaspheme custard through the nose.

Is the failure of Christmas, then, to date from the time of the Puritans? Unluckily for those who would cast the whole

blame upon the "crop-eared Roundheads," it is not difficult to find that the same reproach upon the degeneracy of the times dates at the latest as early as the days of Queen Bess, of whose reign we have a ballad in which occur the lines:—

Christmas beef and bread is turn'd into stones,
Into stones and silken rag;
And Lady Mowey sleeps and makes moans,
And makes moans in misers' bags.
Houses where pleasures did once abound,
Nought but a dog and a shepherd is found;
Places where Christmas revels did keep,
Now are become habitations for sheep.
Well-a-day!

And so, no doubt, if we were to pursue investigation we might find the deterioration of Christmastide a theme from the Saxons to the Romans, and perhaps even thence upwards to the days when the Ancient Britons may have been accustomed to hold jovial evening parties in mid-winter in wicker assembly-rooms, with pine torches in the place of chandeliers, and woaded skins for dress suits, the object of the gathering probably being more the economy of precious warmth than any more intellectual or social enjoyment. Taking later times, the Christmas mummings and masquings, in all their glory even, into full account, what has the modern Englishman to regret? The roast beef (plentiful now, but a rare luxury a few centuries back) is not only infinitely superior in mere cooking, but, thanks to our agricultural societies and improved systems of cattle-breeding, as actual meat, to what it was a hundred, nay, fifty, years ago. The true old English plum-pudding, or, as it was termed in the Puritan days, "plum-porridge," was a semi-liquid compound of raisins boiled in gruel. Such luxuries as sugar, spice, and candies, with all the varied enjoyments with which commerce now loads the tables, even of the humble, at Christmastide, were then, if known, accessible only to a few. A distance of half a hundred miles formed almost an insurmountable barrier between Paterfamilias and the younger and collateral branches of his family. The Christmas games were rude horse-play and buffoonery, tolerable enough in those days when more refined public amusements were rare, and, to the millions, inaccessible. Isolated parishes might divert the almost intolerable dreariness of common life by roaring at Tom disguised as a "Wodehouse," dancing about in a garment of ivy, or Dick with a hobbyhorse upsetting an old woman. Our enjoyments have not decreased; they have changed, simply because they have become more extended and more rational. That charming institution, the Christmas-tree, owes its introduction to England to that lamented Prince for whom the nation was sorrowing but yesterday.

The truth is that the nation is, after all, the best caterer for its own amusement. If it were desirable again to have the

Church-ales and the Morrises,
With hobbyhorses prancing,
The old round games, with Siss and Cis,
Around the maypole dancing.

we should have them, railways, electric telegraphs, and progress lecturers to the contrary notwithstanding. The surest indication of the disuse of a custom is that it has ceased to be necessary, or in accordance with the tastes of the age.

There is, however, one element of Christmas—its best and brightest—which appears to us rather to ripen than decay with the progress of time. Year by year the sacred institution of charity, of benevolence towards the wanderer and the outcast, seems to strengthen at this especial and most appropriate period. Charity, we are told, begins at home. When the home is brightened, as thousands of homes will be, we trust, this Christmas, by the happy assembling of families drawn together as by a centripetal force in a few short hours from the uttermost parts of the kingdom, then will be the time to think upon the poor, the homeless, and the destitute, and to dispense such charitable dole, such brotherly sympathy and heedfulness as it may be in the power of each to afford, measuring their need by comparison with the enjoyment of the affluent, the fortunate, and the happy.

SUBSTITUTES FOR COTTON.

ONE of the effects of the sudden stoppage of the cotton supply on the breaking out of the war in America has been to call public attention to the substitutes which might be found for that precious substance. The question is an old one. In the beginning of this century the Emperor Napoleon I. decreed a reward of one million francs for the discovery of a method by which flax might be spun as fine as cotton, and Philippe de Girard (of Vaucuse) solved the problem, and would have received the promised reward but for the sudden fall of the Imperial Government. The Restoration offered Girard the pitiful sum of 8000 francs by way of a loan on his invention, but he preferred leaving France, carrying his invention with him to Austria, whence he proceeded to Poland, and there established a spinning-mill, round which a small village soon sprang up, now called Girardow. A few years ago the present Emperor granted the family of Girard an indemnity of 200,000 francs by way of reparation. Meanwhile other inventors had come forward—Tissot and Montagne, in 1819; Laforest, in 1827; Totté, in 1829; and M. Edmond Bertin in the present year. The latter's method does away with the steeping of flax, and this, as well as all other fibrous plants, may be stripped by his machine in a superior way, by which the length of the fibre is preserved and an extraordinary degree of smoothness and suppleness ensured. Another invention of the same kind has sprung up in America, and the Chevalier Claussen has imported it into France. He strips the fibrous plants by a chemical process and repeated maceration, by which he rid the fibre of the gluten and other adhesive substances it contains. The produce of these operations he calls fibrilla, and it is described to be a substance as closely resembling cotton as can well be imagined. Spun with wool, it produces stuffs of a very superior quality; and alone it appears to be stronger than cotton. Whether this substance, which in fact is nothing more than the fibre reduced to its simplest expression, will acquire a permanent position in the market, time alone can show.

THE WARDMOTES IN THE METROPOLIS.—Saturday last being St. Thomas's Day, wardmotes were held in the different wards of the City, pursuant to annual custom, to elect representatives to the Common Council for the ensuing year. In the majority of the wards the old members were re-elected without opposition, though in some half-dozen cases there was opposition. The election of members is not the only business of the wardmotes. Once assembled, they usually discuss the various topics of the day. The death of the Prince Consort formed, of course, the prominent subject, and it appeared to cast a gloom over the business in all the wards. The gas question was also discussed, and the various municipal improvements now begun or projected in the City, and, among others, the contemplated new Blackfriars-bridge, entered largely into the deliberations of some of the wards.

SAYINGS AND DOINGS.

It is believed to be the express desire of her bereaved Majesty that everything shall be done which the Prince Consort had projected, and, most of all, that the works at South Kensington shall not suffer interruption.

LORD ROXBURY has been dispatched from Paris to Cannes, to take charge of his Royal Highness Prince Leopold, who will spend the winter there.

REAR-ADMIRAL RODNEY MUNDY, C.B., who lately returned to the Mediterranean, where he has performed such valuable services to the country, has felt it incumbent upon him, from continued ill-health, to resign his command.

MR. SEWARD has requested General McClellan to arrest any civil officer who presumes to carry out the Fugitive Slave Law as at heart a rebel.

THE POST OF GENERAL MANAGER AND SUPERINTENDENT OF THE EXHIBITION OF 1862 has become vacant in consequence of the departure of Colonel Snodwell for active service in Canada.

ALL THE COMPANIES under contract for the conveyance of her Majesty's mails have received instructions from the Government to arm their steamers forthwith.

A GRAND "TE DEUM" was performed in the Cathedral Church at Brussels on Monday on the occasion of the King of the Belgians entering his seventy-second year.

AT MALTA the naval authorities continue busy in getting vessels ready for sea, to proceed to Gibraltar, where a large naval force has been ordered to assemble.

ARRANGEMENTS are now in progress for extending the Post Office savings bank system to Ireland.

THE LAST MAILS were taken out from London to Melbourne by the Benares in forty-three days—the quickest passage on record.

THE FRIENDS of MR. TURNBULL, late Calendarer of State Papers in the Record Office, are preparing to present him with a pecuniary testimonial of their esteem.

By the last accounts from the disputed island of San Juan, we had sixty and the Americans fifty men in "military occupation." The Americans, however, have the advantage, as their Government is in possession of the telegraph to San Francisco.

THE SOCIETY OF FRIENDS has addressed a memorial to Lord Palmerston setting forth the unchristianity of war in general, and the peculiar iniquity of a war between America and England.

A MARRIED WOMAN, named Ridgway, committed suicide by hanging herself, in Fetter-lane, on Friday morning week, while labouring under a fit of temporary insanity.

NANCY ARMFIELD, convicted of the murder of her infant child at Droylesden, and sentenced to death, has been respited.

RECRUITING FOR THE ARMY is now going on in earnest, the average number for the last few days at the office at Westminster being from twenty-five to thirty per diem.

THE INDIA, CHINA, AND AUSTRALIAN MAIL dispatched on Friday was the largest ever known, consisting, as it did, of upwards of 1000 boxes.

GOVERNMENT have made arrangements to fortify the mouth of the River Humber in order to protect the port of Hull.

MR. GEORGE GRANVILLE HARCOURT, M.P. for Oxfordshire, died last week in his seventy-seventh year.

THE EXPORT OF COTTON from Bombay to England during the present year is estimated at 920,000 bales.

THE OFFICIAL REPORT of the capture and death of Borges, the Spanish leader of Bourbonian brigandage, has been published, and finally settles the question of Borges's fate, which, up to the last moment, some of the Legitimist and Ultramontane organs had disputed.

IN THE VILLAGE of LAAS, district of Schlander, in the Tyrol, a fire has destroyed seventy houses and their dependencies. Nearly 200 families are without shelter. The loss is estimated at 450,000 francs.

It is stated in a Boston (U.S.) paper that some of the Federal prisoners at Fort Warren were in want of the common necessities of life, and that public contributions of provisions would be acceptable.

THE COMMITTEE on BARRACK WORKS have resumed their sittings at the War Office. The inquiry is expected to last some time.

THE REPAIRS RENDERED REQUISITE to the GREAT EASTERN at Milford Haven are progressing satisfactorily, and it is expected that the great vessel will be ready to go to sea again by February.

A COURT-MARTIAL was held on board the Britannia, at Malta, on the 9th inst., when Commander G. B. Nicholas was found guilty of excessive punishment of two boys of the crew for breaking their leave at Gibraltar and sentenced to be dismissed the service.

HEINRICH MARSCNER, the celebrated composer of "The Templars," "The Vampire," "Hans Heiling," and several other operas, died at Hanover on Sunday week of apoplexy. Dr. Marschner had been ailing for some time.

THE FIRE AT THE SUGAR-REFINERY at ANTWERP, which was supposed to be quite extinguished, has again burst forth in the cellars, and the efforts to arrest its progress by stopping all the vents have had little effect, owing to many of the walls having fallen in.

THE NEWS from the interior of India as to the prospects of an abundant crop of cotton are very encouraging. There is no longer any doubt that a greatly-increased area is under cultivation, and that strenuous efforts are being made to provide for more attention being paid to the picking and cleaning of the staple.

THE UNITED STATES, it is said, have given considerable orders for arms in Prussia. Up to the present time the number of stands delivered by that country and the other great German States amounts to 100,000. A similar quantity is to be delivered in the period of a few months.

THE LATE KING OF PORTUGAL is said to have left some political essays, written in a liberal and enlightened spirit, which are to be published.

MESSES. A. AND C. BLACK, of Edinburgh, have purchased the copyright and stock of the late Mr. De Quincey's works.

WYNWARD HALL, near Stockton, the seat of the Marchioness of Londonderry, was last week seriously damaged by fire. The hall has been burnt down twice.

MOGAL BEG, one of the sons of the ex-Emperor of Delhi, who cut down Mr. Fraser, the Resident, and afterwards took an active part in the general massacre of Christians at Delhi in May, 1857, has been arrested in Scinde, and sent to Delhi to stand his trial.

THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT, it is said, has transmitted, by order of the Emperor, 2000 pairs of snow-boots for the use of the British troops in Canada, the English Government having requested to be allowed to purchase them in consequence of being short of a sufficient supply of the article.

ORDERS OF THE DAY of the most ridiculous kind succeed each other at Warsaw with extraordinary rapidity. One forbids priests to christen, marry, or bury without authorisation. Any inhabitant who wishes to celebrate the anniversary of his birthday must also provide himself with a permission from the military authorities.

It is said that the Captain-General of Valencia, who lately had the quarrel with the Duke of Malakoff, has been deprived of his post for not having more energetically vindicated the honour of Spain against the language used by the French Field-Marshal.

COUNT POUTALES, Prussian Ambassador to the Court of the Tuileries, died in Paris last week.

THE COURT OF COMMON COUNCIL OF LONDON have resolved to dismarket Newgate Market, and to erect a new one on the site of Old Smithfield.

FROM Mexico we learn that the Government there have resolved, doubtless for very good reasons, to offer no resistance to the occupation of their principal ports by the allied fleets, but that they will resist all operations inland.

It is asserted that a Spanish expedition, under the command of General Serrano, has disembarked at Vera Cruz, in order to protect the Spanish inhabitants, who had discovered the existence of a conspiracy against their lives.

HER MAJESTY'S STEAMER SEMIRAMIS, I.N., was wrecked on the morning of the 20th of September last on one of the reefs in Ponsoni Bay, on the south side of the Island of Johanna, one of the Canoro group.

THE SENIOR OFFICER of the Bengal Army, General Sir William Richards, K.C.B., died at Nynee Tal on the morning of the 1st of November, in the eighty-third year of his age, and after three quarters of a century's service.

ONE THOUSAND POUNDS is about to be voted by the Tasmanian Legislature for the purpose of testing the quality of Tasmanian coal; and Lieutenant Brooker, the Admiralty surveyor, is about to report on the practicability of establishing ports for the shipment of coal on the eastern seaboard of Tasmania.

M. LAMARTINE, the illustrious French writer, and one of the Decembrists during the last French revolution, intends visiting England next spring. He is seventy-two years of age.

MR. LAIRD, the new member for Birkenhead, has undertaken the erection of an infirmary for Birkenhead at a cost of £3000. It is quite consistent with the character of Mr. Laird that he did not make this predetermined act an electioneering movement in the late severe contest. The gift will be duly appreciated by his fellow-burgesses.

Literature.

Tom Brown at Oxford. By the Author of "Tom Brown's School-days." 3 vols. Cambridge: Macmillan and Co.

When "Tom Brown's School-days" appeared in a season that was remarkable for its literary dullness, that book met with a success unprecedented for one so small and unpretending, and there was scarcely a critic but had a great deal to say in its favour. Its pure tone, manly sentiment, and, above all, its honesty, produced an effect that it deserved. But now that the author has given us a further instalment of the same hero's life, the tide of criticism has somewhat turned, notwithstanding that the same purity, manliness, and honesty breathe through every page of these three volumes as did through the former one. It is stated that his picture of Oxford is untrue, that his ladies are not wellbred and that it would have been better for Mr. Hughes's reputation if he had been satisfied with his first success.

Luckily for the author, the fact remains that his book passed through its first edition almost as soon as it was printed. We do not deny that there are faults in this book which did not exist in "Tom Brown's School-days;" and we are afraid that the author has not shown any greater or more varied power than he did in his former work, but yet there still remains a balance which is quite enough to excuse the sale of the work and to guarantee the success of others which we hope to see published from the same hand. The balance, which would appear to be inherent in the author, and to be, therefore, "a constant quantity" in anything he writes, is the same high tone manliness and honesty before mentioned.

This book is a model of what may be done by those qualities, aided by good work and a purpose. As for imagination, the author seems to have very little or none. The story is simple, and where it fails in simplicity—i.e., where improbable incidents occur—the author's lack of any shows itself unmistakably. No one is, however, who should think, more convinced of this defect than the author himself, and he shows at once his desire to be honest and his distrust of his own powers by deviating as little as possible from scenes and positions in which he has himself had personal experience. It is this which has made him liable to the disagreeable charge, which he seems to take very much to heart in his preface, of painting a portrait of himself under the name of his hero, from which we at once acquit him, saying, at the same time, that we know of no one's work that contains so much of the heart and soul of the author as his. He takes the opportunity of publishing his opinions on many interesting subjects (most of them already known) by placing them in the dialogue. The reader may thus find valuable and right-minded views on many perplexing social questions which no one whose life has not been so devoted to the cause as his could have stated with so much clearness. Muscular Christianity, or, in other words, the principle of not sacrificing the body to the mind; the question of masters and men, the low moral tone of economical science, and the riddle of government, enter largely into the interest of the work, and give a real and tangible value to it that adverse criticism cannot lessen.

We fail to see anything decidedly unladylike in Miss Mary Porter. who seems to us to be certainly not the sort of girl one is accustomed to meet with in society; but we feel inclined to be more sorry for society than for her. A girl who has been brought up as the pet of a rich couple living away from town is likely to be, thank Heaven, more natural and free than the hothouse plants of Belgravia; but, except that her conversation with Tom in the Long Walk at Oxford is rather too clever, we have little or nothing to object to. As for Kate, we think it would be hard indeed to find her guilty, even by the sternest rules of etiquette that Mayfair could frame. But, if the kindly-hearted author could indulge in satire, it would be directed against the falsely-proud dicta of society; and so, in entering into an argument with him, to state that his heroines are unladylike is simply begging the question.

The great fault, to our mind, in the book is the incident on which the story turns. In escaping from the proctors at a town and gown row the hero takes refuge in a public-house, and sits or stands talking to Patty, the pretty barmaid, and drinking of a famous tap of home-brewed until the danger is past. Pleased both with beer and beauty, he reports favourably of his discovery to his friends of St. Ambrose and the little public-house soon becomes the haunt of himself and his associates. What with playing cribbage with Patty's aunt, and constantly seeing pretty Patty herself, the hero's breasts grow wondrous soft towards the barmaid, until her attractions quite overcome him. All so far is tolerably natural; but that he who had led hitherto a pure life should hurry at once into the very heart of profligacy and entertain thoughts of, and afterwards deliberate, form a scheme for seducing her, is preposterous. Except in such cases as that of Don Juan and Haidée, where there has been no proper teaching to counteract the impure promptings of fallen nature, we do not believe that seduction is anything but the "dernier resort" of the worn-out roué, and cannot imagine a more untruthful or more unpleasant occurrence than that which Mr. Hughes chooses for the pivot of his story. Could, however, such an extraordinary thing happen, and nothing is so extraordinary in this way but that it might have happened, it could not have been more cleverly treated. The agony of Tom Brown's mind, the noble conduct of his friend Hardy at the crisis, are so vividly depicted that were it not for the doubt as to its possibility it would read as the most honest part of the narrative. We have such faith in the author that we believe that if it be an error it is an error of simplicity.

If the book does not present a truthful picture of Oxford life we know not where to turn for a truer one. It is certainly much superior to "Verdant Green." The college men are types of their several kinds. Blake the man who can do everything better than any one else, and is plucked for his great-go; Hardy, the noble-minded, conscientious servant, who turns out the first man of his year; Drysdale, the fast man; St. Cloud, the mean and selfish man of good family—are all characters that every one has met, and, being true to nature, must be true to Oxford life; while Grey, the bashful doer of good works, who loses his first from his attention to his school, is represented consistently from beginning to end. The picture may not contain the whole truth, but there is little in it that is not true.

As we before hinted, the romantic incidents of Tom's life are clumsy. That Patty the barmaid should turn out to be the daughter of his uncle's gardener and the sweetheart of Harry Winburn, his old humble friend, and that the poacher for whom he watched at night at Squire Wurlley's should be Harry Winburn himself, are, in a quiet way, as improbable as the wildest vision of an opium-eater without any countervailing charm. Improbabilities happen every day, but they do not form the tissue of our histories, and that they should be represented as doing so in this most honest and matter-of-fact novel is a strange contradiction indeed.

On the whole, however, this is one of those few novels of which we can safely predicate that they will do more good than harm. A book so pure in intention and so truthful in its working out cannot help doing good. We close the book with a heartfelt estimation for the author and a hope that we shall hear something of its hero in his married life.

Before, however, we finish our review we would inform Mr. Hughes that we believe that one George Wither was the author of the lines—

If she be not fair to me,
What care I how fair she be?

The Anchorite of Montserrat.

When a story comes before us the author of which is the daughter of that Mrs. Sherwood who wrote "The Lady of the Manor" and "Henry and his Bearer," it has a claim by reason of the hope with

which we seek for the perpetuation of a style that was always charming and purely womanly. This hope is not altogether disappointed in the present instance, although it may be regretted that in "The Anchorite of Montserrat" Mrs. Kelly has not chosen a fortunate subject for the development of her peculiar style. A story which tells of the great controversy between "the monk that moved the world" and his priestly opponents—of which, indeed, Lothar himself is one of the principal characters—needs a vigor us if not a masculine hand, a hand perhaps too strong to be truly feminine.

To say that the power of the book is not adequate to the subject need scarcely imply an adverse criticism, when it is remembered to what a subject it refers, especially as there is evidence of a perhaps better vocation for Mrs. Kelly's talents, supplied by the story itself. The truly womanly writer of pure sentiments, the exponent of gentle thoughts and "the unconquerable might of meekness," should never and we hope will never, lack an audience. Mrs. Kelly may speak on some more congenial subject with a voice which will be listened to and remembered among the children of those who love and admire Mrs. Sherwood.

Rab and his Friends. By JOHN BROWN, M.D. Edinburgh Edmonston and Douglas.

In "high latitudes" only was Dr. John Brown familiarly known, until the other day, when the publishers of the present volume gave to the world a collection of the Doctor's sketches. From that collection the present volume is an extract; but it is endowed with the greatest luxury of paper, print, and binder's craft; whilst appreciative friends have furnished half-a-dozen etchings which might have done honour to the celebrated "Etching Club" itself. Dr. Brown may look upon himself as already a London favourite. He is Charles Lamb-like in his humour; but, then, his manly heartiness and strength are so passionate and exuberant, that, after all, we believe it must be Christopher North whom he most resembles. Rab, an enormous dog, plays the principal, though a silent, part in this true story, which, by-the-way, is of the simplest kind; being neither more nor less than that a wife dies of cancer, and her sorrowing husband soon follows; whilst their dog, who cannot be comforted, is mercifully killed. But the story occupies many pages, and every line is instinct with life, with broad irresistible humour, or with pathos against which (if something like a paradox may be pardoned) it is still more impossible to strive. It is impossible to resist giving a description of the principal character in the scene:—

There are no such dogs now. He belonged to a lost tribe. As I have said, he was brindled and grey, like Rubislaw granite; his hair short, hard and close, like a lion's; his body thick-set, like a little bull—a sort of compressed Hercules of a dog. He must have been ninety pounds weight at the least; he had a large, blunt head; his muzzle black as night, his mouth blacker than any night, a tooth or two—being all he had—gleaming out of his jaws of darkness. His head was starred with the records of old wounds, a sort of series of fields of battle all over it; one eye out, one ear cropper, as close as was Archbishop Leighton's father's; the remaining eye had the power of two; and above it, and in constant communication with it, was a tattered rag of an ear, which was for ever unfurling itself, like an old flag; and then that bud of a tail, about one inch long, if it could in any sense be said to be long, being as broad as long—the mobility, the instantaneousness, of that bud were very funny and surprising, and its expressive twinklings and winkings, the intercommunications between the eye, the ear, and it, were of the oddest and swiftest. Rab had the dignity and simplicity of great size, and, having fought his way along the road to absolute supremacy, he was as mighty in his own line as Julius Cæsar or the Duke of Wellington, and had the gravity of all great fighters.

This important personage moves throughout the little story wherever his "friends" may chance to go, the friends being Dr. John Brown (the writer), and the carrier and his wife before mentioned, who died. The hospital scene is remarkably affecting; the surgeon's knife is not exactly felt during the operation, but it seems to be unpleasantly near; and the death of the patient four days later, and James's subsequent journey for the cart, make up as pure a passage of pathos as can be found in any writer. Heartily do we recommend a new book and a new man to the English public.

Selections from the Writings of John Ruskin. With a Portrait. Smith, Elder, and Co.

Mr. Ruskin himself, it is announced, has had no part in making the selections in this "desirable" volume and is in no way responsible for its appearance, though he has tacitly consented to it. The selections, however, are undoubtedly so far such as he might have made himself, that they very well illustrate the long motto (taken from "Modern Painters," vol. v.) which is quoted in the title-page, and the gist of which lies in Mr. Ruskin's own declaration that the distinctive character of his books, "as essays in art, is their bringing everything to a root in human passion or human hope." In other words, the selections are such as appreciative readers would wish for; most of them of peculiar interest to persons with a feeling for art, but all of them with a genuine independent interest for the thoughtful, honest, and sympathetic.

We must say we are heartily glad to see this selection. Every man makes errors, but Mr. Ruskin's faults are spots on the sun. His noble candour, at once so tender and so uncompromising, is without a parallel in modern literature; no living writer speaks so directly to the heart and conscience, and the "arrogance" and "inconsequence" we ourselves never could find out. Sometimes he writes with the positiveness of a fanatic, and is obviously straining a point; but what of that? Is it one sign of the debilitated literary appetite of this generation that it cannot be spoken to vehemently without raising the cry of "arrogance," or hear its social policy questioned in pathetic terms without charging the questioner with "hysterics?" Want of tolerance is indeed the fault of all generations; but it is surprising how slow even intelligent people are to allow for the wariness of conviction, and the little peculiarities of teachers ranking ever so high in their opinion.

The volume before us does not, of course, demand criticism in detail. It is the result of an excellent idea well carried out, and a capital book for a present: we very cordially wish it a large circulation.

Household Education. By HARRIET MARTINEAU. A New Edition. Smith, Elder, and Co.

If anybody who sees this notice has not read the essays of Harriet Martineau, which are here reprinted, let him get them, and take our word that he will find them as interesting as a novel, like the same author's "Deerbrook." All that this lady writes is *doctrine*, and sometimes a little hard in tone; but her beautifully-transparent style, her "fund of appropriate anecdotes," her fine conscientiousness, and her marvellous trick of waking logical trains of thought in familiar grooves of observation, carry all before them and one reads her again and again with renewed delight. We should be afraid to guess how many times we have read these very papers, while finding reason to differ from something or other on almost every page. It is not so much for specific suggestions that heads of families may usefully turn to the book as for its great effectiveness as a moral tonic and alterative in the midst of the daily troubles of bringing up children. This lady-seer very seldom tells you what to do in a given case, but she puts you on such a platform of feeling and affection that you find out for yourself what to do. It is the greatest blessing a book can be to a reader; and after that we need not say that our warm "God speed" goes with "Household Education."

Shakespeare's Curse, and other Poems. Bosworth.

Reviewing poetry is a task so hazardous, if the reviewer pretend to give any judgment upon the ultimate qualifications of the poet, that it is almost to be wished the work of critics were confined to strict criticism within the "canons." Here is an elegant little volume, as nicely got up as any of Moxon's, and containing some really noticeable verses—verses full, to be sure, of imitation, and scenting

palpably of Hood, Tennyson, and the Brownings—but full, also, of charming, genuine thought and feeling, so well coloured and so harmoniously wrought into form that it requires a practised eye to judge of it. Speaking absolutely we should feel no hesitation in saying that a writer who after so much (evident) study of the best models, and do no better will never do what will live in the minds of men. But if these poems are only the amusement of a very busy man it is quite possible that, if he were to devote his whole time to the art which it is clear he loves, he might produce pleasing "artistic wholes" which would have a good chance of being remembered. In any case the poet's wife, to whom he dedicates the book, has reason to be proud of her husband. He is not a common man, and has, at all events, made a narrow escape from being a poet. Within these ten years "the press" has welcomed with boys writers without half his faculty, his good taste, or his power of painstaking. We confess we find it hard always not to entertain hopes of poets who labour at their verses; for, inasmuch as they must know that nine-tenths of the secret "marble-clipping" of genius goes unappreciated by the crowds their devotion shows at least that they possess the disinterestedness which is inseparable from the highest gifts.

ELECTION INTELLIGENCE.

EAST WORCESTERSHIRE.—Harry Foley Vernon, Esq., of Hanbury Park, was duly returned on Friday week a knight of the shire for East Worcestershire, in the room of the late Mr. Foley. There was no opposition. Mr. Vernon announced himself to be a moderate Liberal, in favour of a £10 county franchise, and of a reduction of the borough franchise, but adverse to the total abolition of church rates.

NOTTINGHAM.—The contest for this borough continues with unabated vigour. The Earl of Lincoln has addressed several public meetings, as well as engaged in an active personal canvass of the electors. The noble Earl declares himself in favour of a £10 franchise in counties, and £5 in boroughs. He is a friend to the abolition of church rates, but opposed to all violent and unconsidered changes. The result of the contest is still very doubtful; for, although Sir Robert Clifton had the start of his opponent, the influence of the Newcastle family in the borough is considerable, and the sponsorship of Sir Morton Peto secures a large portion of the Dissenting interest on the side of Lord Lincoln.

OXFORDSHIRE.—Sir H. W. D. Shewood, Bart., of Kirklington Park, has offered himself to supply the vacancy occasioned by the death of Mr. G. G. Harcourt. There is not likely to be any opposition to his return, as both Liberals and Conservatives are equally well satisfied with Sir Henry, and are disposed to confide in one who, declining to pledge himself to any party, is satisfied with the present Administration.

THE ART-UNION OF LONDON.—The twenty-fifth annual report has just been issued by the Council of the Art Union of London, and shows that the objects of the association are being pursued with unremitting energy. Various circumstances, however, have concurred to render the subscription for the present year less than it has been on previous occasions; but it yet amounts to the respectable sum of £10,882 4s. The council account for the fall in the subscriptions by referring to the general depression in trade, disasters in India, disruption in America, and especially to the fact that a very large number of projects all professing to have the same end in view now bid for the patronage of the public. To these projects the council have no mimical feeling, but still their existence deprives the London Art-Union of that nearly undivided support which it at one time enjoyed. The subscribers of the year have received the engraving after Turner's picture of "Italy;" and each guinea paid for the ensuing year will entitle the subscriber to an engraving of Mr. F. Goodall's picture called "Raising the Maypole." The council have presented a memorial to the Government praying for the adoption in the several galleries and museums of the nation of a uniform plan of opening them to the general public every day of the week (except Sunday, but with a charge of 6d. for each person (except students) on Thursday and Friday; and a hope is expressed that this proposal may be adopted by the time the International Exhibition of next year is opened. A premium of 100 guineas has been awarded to Mr. Paulo Priolo, of Edinburgh, for the best series of designs in outline illustrative of Tennyson's "Idylls of the King;" and honorary premiums of 20 guineas each have been given to Mr. Corbould and Mr. Alexander Rowan for designs on the same subject. Two premiums, of 70 guineas and 30 guineas were offered for the best and second-best models of statuettes, but have not been awarded, the models sent in not being satisfactory. In continuation of the medal series it has been determined that a commemorative medal of the late Sir Charles Barry, architect of the Houses of Parliament, with a view of that monument, and distributed as soon as possible. The production of a medal commemorative of the late Sir Richard Westmacott has also been determined on, but the artist is not yet selected. Arrangements have been made to meet the wish for the possession, by subscription, of bronzes and statuettes produced by the society, which will enable many to obtain these beautiful works of art who would otherwise have been precluded that privilege. With the view of promoting general art-education, the council have offered premiums of £10 and £5 each, to the extent of £100, to be competed for by the pupils of the schools in connection with the Science and Art Department of the Committee of Council on Education. Other measures for carrying out the objects of the union and cultivating artistic taste in the nation are announced; and the council, referring to the future, thus conclude their report:—"The approaching year is fraught with interest, and promises results of great importance. In the proposed International Exhibition, now being organized and prepared for, such a display of modern art-works will probably be included as has never before been witnessed. We shall there see what has been done during the last hundred years by various nations, what progress we ourselves are making. By comparison and friendly strife all will be incited to exertion, and all may be gainers. Unless interfered with by wars abroad or other disasters, the proposed Exhibition of 1862 can scarcely fail to be successful in the highest acceptance of the word. Your council look forward to it as full of promise, and will conclude their report with the expression of an earnest hope—may peace be preserved, and the fine arts flourish!"

CHRISTMAS IN THE METROPOLIS.—The observance of Christmas on Wednesday was marked by great decorum, and was in every way appropriate to the season, showing a great improvement in the habits and manner of the people during the last few years. There was an absence of the swaggering and roystering which on too many occasions has ushered in old Christmas. The different churches were well attended in the morning, and the day, being bright and breezy, with a brisk frost in the air, tempted people to out-door exercise for the remainder of the day. In the evening family circles gathered round the hearth, and enjoyed themselves, we trust, to the full; certainly there were few who quitted their own homes for the streets. In the "universal festival" the poor among us, we are glad to think, were not forgotten. The paupers in our workhouses had their Christmas fare and their Christmas jollity, as well as their more fortunate brothers and sisters in the race of life. According to an excellent custom, which has now existed for many years, the inmates in all the workhouses in London, and, we believe, we may say throughout the country, were regaled with the old English substantial fare of roast beef and plum-pudding. In many respects the present Christmas contrasts favourably with that of last year. The extraordinarily cold weather which set in this time twelve months, producing a collapse in the ordinary labour of London, threw thousands on the resources of private charity for the very means of existence. We have had no such sudden and severe distress in the present occasion: the weather has been mild and genial, and there has been no attempt to convert our magistrates into relieving officers. But, though the distress has not been so conspicuous, we fear the pressure is steady and painful.

AN AMERICAN IRON-CLAD FRIGATE.—There is now being constructed at the shipyard of Messrs. Cramp and Son, Philadelphia, an iron-clad screw-frigate for the use of the Government. The vessel will be 230ft. long, 60ft. beam, 25ft. hold, having three full decks. When loaded she will draw 15ft. of water, and will carry sixteen 11-inch guns. She will have two powerful engines and one large brass wheel, and is to run at the rate of ten knots per hour. The vessel is to be ready for sea by the 15th of next July, and will carry 150 men. The plates are 15 t. long, 28 ft. and 30 ft. wide, and 4 in. thick. A 2½-ton hammer is required in their manufacture. After being received at the four dry docks the plates are planed, the edges and ends being made straight and smooth and grooved like a flooring-board. The groove is 1 in. wide by ½ in. deep. Screws are to be used in fastening the plates to the planking of the ship. They are to be put in from the inside of the vessel, and are not to go through the plates. The vessel is to be covered with the plates four feet under water and three feet above it, and they are to extend 8½ ft. fore and aft of the centre line, which will make 170 ft. of planking. The iron is to come up to a line with the spar-deck, above which there will be a light rail. The sides of the ship, with a view to cause the shots to glance, will have an angle of 30 deg. from three feet above the load line. In order to carry this extra weight the ship has to be large. The tonnage of the one under contract is to be 3500. In her construction she will be different from the French ship *La Gloire*. The French ship is very deep in the water, while the vessel to be built at Philadelphia will be almost flat-bottomed, which, notwithstanding the additional weight, will make her of light draught. Her machinery will be much the same as that of a first-class screw-of-war, except that she will have four boilers and a blower. The latter is to make the boilers steam even though the smoke-stack should be shot away.

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In this Album will be found many of the most popular ballads of these favourite composers.

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